Mecklenburg County North Carolina Proclamation

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County has operated a Child Support Enforcement Department since July 2010 when the staff and customers of the program were entrusted to the County by the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Former President Bill Clinton first proclaimed August as National Child Support Awareness Month in 1995 to demonstrate the importance of child support as a sustainable means of financial support and well-being for many of our nation's children; and

WHEREAS, children living in poverty are more vulnerable to environmental, educational, health, and safety risks, and are more likely to have cognitive, behavioral, and socio-emotional difficulties throughout their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, parents and/or caretakers, through a strong work ethic and personal responsibility, can provide a stable foundation for life to children who are dependent on them for their daily, financial, emotional and physical growth; and

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County is committed to ensuring the safety, health and well-being of our children by supporting families through programs designed to help parents remain engaged in their children's lives; and

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County promotes a thriving, productive, proactive and engaging community by taking a collaborative and holistic approach to help families benefit from both co-parenting and community support; and

WHEREAS, in Mecklenburg County there are approximately 68,994 children and custodial parents who receive more than \$52 million in child support annually, through the efforts of this County's child support professionals, which provides food, housing, and clothing to these families; and

WHEREAS, collection of child support also contributes to the welfare of our local economy by avoiding Medicaid costs annually; and moving families into economic self-sufficiency by reducing dependence on other public assistance programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Food and Nutrition Services (FNS); and

WHEREAS, these local efforts are provided by 127 Mecklenburg County staff members who work diligently to uphold the County's customer service and accountability standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaims August 2019 as

"CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH'

This 7th day of August 2019

George Dunlap, Chair

Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners