

IN RECOGNITION OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM VOLUNTEER DAY

APRIL 20, 2016

WHEREAS: APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH, AND NATIONAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK IS RECOGNIZED DURING THE 2ND WEEK IN APRIL; AND

WHEREAS: THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM, ALSO KNOWN AS CASA, OR COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN IS A NATIONAL EFFORT REPRESENTED IN ALL 50 STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS AND PUERTO RICO; AND

WHEREAS: THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM'S SOLE MISSION IS TO REPRESENT THE BEST INTERESTS OF ABUSED, ABANDONED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN INVOLVED IN DEPENDENCY COURT PROCEEDINGS; AND

WHEREAS: FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS, THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE STATE; AND

WHEREAS: THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BROWARD COUNTY OVERSEES A VOLUNTEER BASE OF OVER 700 PEOPLE, AND THOSE VOLUNTEERS ADVOCATE FOR OVER 3,000 CHILDREN IN BROWARD COUNTY; AND

WHEREAS: GUARDIAN AD LITEM VOLUNTEERS SACRIFICE TIME AND MILEAGE WORTH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AND PROVIDE AN INVALUABLE SERVICE TO DEPENDENCY COURT JUDGES; AND

WHEREAS: RESEARCH SHOWS THAT CHILDREN IN THE DEPENDENCY SYSTEM GREATLY BENEFIT FROM A GUARDIAN AD LITEM VOLUNTEER IN MANY WAYS: THEY ARE 50% LESS LIKELY TO RETURN TO FOSTER CARE; HAVE FEWER PLACEMENT CHANGES WHEN IN CARE; DO BETTER IN SCHOOL; ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE ADOPTED AND OVERALL SPEND LESS TIME IN FOSTER CARE; AND

WHEREAS: THERE ARE 55 GUARDIAN AD LITEM VOLUNTEERS IN THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD; NOW

THEREFORE: PETER BOBER, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA, AND THE HOLLYWOOD CITY COMMISSION, HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 20, 2016 AS:

GUARDIAN AD LITEM VOLUNTEER DAY

IN HOLLYWOOD, AND ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE TIME, ENERGY AND EFFORT THESE EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEERS SO FREELY GIVE TO OUR CITY AND ITS RESIDENTS.

SIGNED THIS 20th DAY OF
APRIL, AT
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

MAYOR PETER BOBER
VICE MAYOR PETER D. HERNANDEZ
COMMISSIONER PATRICIA ASSEFF
COMMISSIONER TRACI L. CALLARI
COMMISSIONER RICHARD S. BLATTNER
COMMISSIONER KEVIN D. BIEDERMAN
COMMISSIONER LINDA SHERWOOD