



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the youth of Pelham, Alabama will determine the future strength of our country and be the bearers of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, youth need a safe haven from various negative influences, such as child abuse, substance abuse, depression, and crime, and youth need readily available resources to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Place program is committed to protecting the youth of Pelham, Alabama by offering short-term housing at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise young people seeking assistance and guidance; and

WHEREAS, designated locations where youth can get information and immediate help, Safe Place is found at businesses, such as restaurants, convenience stores, movie theaters, and community buildings such as fire stations, libraries and public transportation vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the success of Safe Place is based on public/private collaborations between businesses, school systems, fire departments, law enforcement, and a network of volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Pelham, Alabama needs increased numbers of community volunteers serving as mentors and positive influences on young people; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Place program must meet performance standards, relative to outreach and community relations, to receive direct federal assistance as set forth in the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, more than 1,400 communities in 36 states administer the Safe Place program at more than 22,000 locations; and

WHEREAS, more than 359,000 youth have been helped at a Safe Place location or received counseling by phone as a result of Safe Place information received at school; and

WHEREAS, since program inception in 1983, more than 15 million youth have been educated through National Safe Place Network's Safe Place outreach efforts, familiarizing them with the Safe Place sign and providing them with information about how to seek help in order to stay safe; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness will encourage more communities to establish Safe Place locations where youth can readily access the help they need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary W. Waters, Mayor of the City of Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama, do hereby proclaim the week of March 15-21, 2020 as

National Safe Place Week

In Pelham, Alabama.

FUTHERMORE, I call upon the people of Pelham, Alabama and interested groups to promote awareness of, and volunteer involvement in, the Safe Place program and observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.



Given under my hand,
in the City of Pelham, Alabama
this 16th day of March 2020.

Gary W. Waters
Mayor