



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, a growing body of research indicates that young children who are exposed to violence in their homes and/or communities are at great risk of suffering long lasting psychological trauma; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 there were over 200,000 calls for police response to domestic violence in Chicago and children are often the forgotten ones when exposure to violence occurs; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that in some Chicago neighborhoods, 25 percent of local children have witnessed a shooting, and 30 percent have witnessed a stabbing; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 there were over 30,000 calls of children reported as abused and neglected in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago Department of Public Health, Office of Violence Prevention, has worked to strengthen the city's response to children exposed to violence through the Chicago Safe Start Initiative, which asks residents to remove children from violent situations and seek help when exposure occurs; and

WHEREAS, the week of April 20, 2008 has been designated as Chicago Safe Start Week, during which events will include local and city-wide public awareness and education workshops in addition to various Safe Start Community Council activities designed to increase Chicago citizens' awareness of the seriousness of childhood exposure to violence:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD M. DALEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim the week of April 20, 2008 to be the 2nd ANNUAL CHICAGO SAFE START WEEK, and encourage all Chicagoans to help ensure the safety of our children.

Dated this 7th day of February, 2008


Mayor