

Proclamation

DESIGNATING MAY 25, 2023, AS FAMILY ABDUCTION AWARENESS DAY

Whereas, every 40 seconds, a child goes missing or is abducted in the United States, and preventing Family Abduction is a priority of this county; and

Whereas, a Family Abduction occurs when a child is taken, wrongfully retained, or concealed by a parent or other family member, depriving another individual of their right to custody or visitation, even in cases with vague or absent court orders; and

Whereas, a Family Abduction is often an act of frustration with the left-behind parent, the legal system, or their own situation in life, and has distinctive characteristics including emotional and psychological trauma to the child and left-behind family; and

Whereas, law enforcement officers should recognize these events as an insidious form of child abuse, not as harmless offenses where two parents are arguing over who 'loves the child more'; and

Whereas, it is incumbent on law enforcement agencies to maintain written plans, which specify actions and procedures for promptly meeting situations of alleged Family Abduction; and

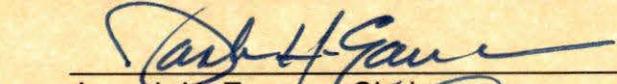
Whereas, National Missing Children's Day is commemorated on May 25th to remember missing children, and spread the word about Family Abduction.

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, that in partnership with the National Parents Organization and its collaborative organizations, May 25, 2023 is proclaimed as Family Abduction Awareness Day, as a reminder to strengthen our efforts to reduce the threat of Family Abduction, reunite the children who are missing with their families, and honor all those who are working for the cause.

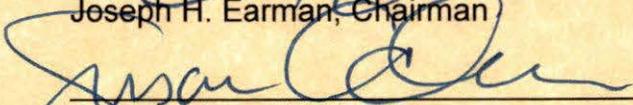
Adopted this 6th day of June, 2023.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

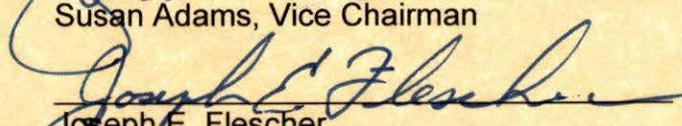




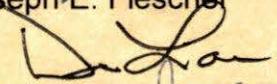
Joseph H. Earman, Chairman



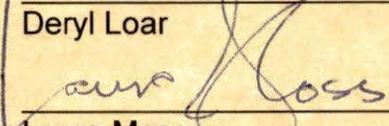
Susan Adams, Vice Chairman



Joseph E. Flescher



Deryl Loar



Laura Moss