



PROCLAMATION

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

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;

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

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

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;

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

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.);

WHEREAS, more than 1,400 communities in 37 states administer the Safe Place program at more than 21,000 locations;

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;

WHEREAS, since program inception in 1983, more than 15 million youth have been reached through National Safe Place Network's Building a Safety Net for Youth campaign, familiarizing them with the Safe Place sign and providing them with information about how to seek help in order to stay safe;

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, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama, do hereby proclaim the week of March 17- March 25, 2019 as

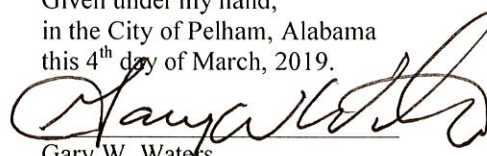
NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

in Pelham, Alabama.

FUTHERMORE, I urge the residents of Pelham and interested groups to promote awareness of, and volunteer involvement in, the Safe Place program.



Given under my hand,
in the City of Pelham, Alabama
this 4th day of March, 2019.


Gary W. Waters
Mayor