

CITY OF DIAMONDHEAD, MISSISSIPPI
RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATES

WHEREAS, every child is entitled to be loved, care for, nurtured and free from emotional, physical and sexual abuse and neglect, and

WHEREAS, the maltreatment of children in our county and in our State crosses all racial, ethnic, and social-economic boundaries, and endangers our most precious resource, and

WHEREAS, more than 31,000 allegations against children were investigated in the State of Mississippi last year as result of abuse or neglect and of those 340 are currently “in care” of Child Protective Services in Hancock County, and

WHEREAS, Hancock County has utilized trained community volunteers or “CASA’s” to advocate on behalf of its communities’ child victims to ensure their voice is heard during the court process and that their best interests are represented, and

WHEREAS, the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program or “CASA” Hancock County is a member program in good standing with the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association and CASA Mississippi, providing best practices in child advocacy through the recruitment, training and support of its volunteer advocate based, and

WHEREAS, Hancock County recognized and values the work that is being done for its counties most vulnerable children by CASA Hancock County, and

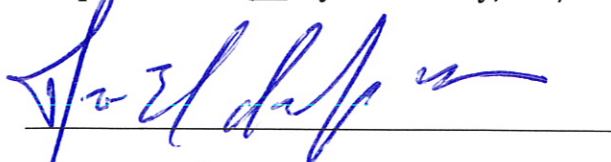
WHEREAS, legislation specific to the CASA organization and its volunteers will allow for consistency and possible expansion of this worthwhile organization across our State, and

WHEREAS, this effort will give abused and neglected children in our community, and around the State, an independent set of eyes on each case who will provide fact-based recommendations to the Youth Court focusing on the child’s safety and their need for permanency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the City Council of Diamondhead, Mississippi:

1. Recognize Hancock County CASA in its efforts to advocate for every child victim in the City and in Hancock County through assignment of trained community advocates,
2. Support upcoming legislation to identify CASA’s role in court proceeding to legitimize the work that is being done at the local level on behalf of abused and neglected children, and to assist with the expansion of the CASA mission across the State.

Adopted the this 7th day of February, 2017.



Thomas E. Schafer, IV, Mayor