

## FAMILY DAY

**WHEREAS**, children are our future and society's greatest asset, and committed families shape and guide children by preparing them for obstacles and encouraging them to overcome life's demanding challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, children who spend significant time with both parents show lower risks of suicide, dropout, teen pregnancy, incarceration, and drug abuse; however, the importance of children having two parents is diminishing in society as approximately 40,000 Alabama children a year experience court ordered visitation with one parent for only two to six days a month; and

**WHEREAS**, children of concerned and active parents are far less likely to exhibit risky and unhealthy behaviors such as smoking, drinking, or using illegal drugs because of the valuable time spent with parents and the positive examples set by parents, and social scientists agree that shared parenting should be the norm for children of all ages; and

**WHEREAS**, simple daily activities like sharing a meal, a conversation, or a book can have an enormous impact on the life of a child. Strong and engaged families help build a strong Alabama, and it is our responsibility as concerned family members to help create a solid foundation for the future health and happiness of all of Alabama's children; and

**WHEREAS**, Family Day in Alabama has grown to promote the importance of family interaction and connecting with kids throughout the day/week, and to stress that children need both parents, and during Family Day/Week we honor the devotion of parents and recognize their critical role in teaching children positive and healthy behaviors; and

**WHEREAS**, we encourage all Alabamians to visit [CASAFamilyDay.org](http://CASAFamilyDay.org) for information on talking with children about the perils of drug use, and we call on community and state leaders to support shared parenting because of its benefits for children.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, William R. Marks, Mayor of the City of Athens, Alabama, do hereby proclaim September 28, 2020 as **FAMILY DAY** and the week of September 27, 2020 through October 3, 2020 as **FAMILY WEEK** in the City of Athens and encourage our citizens to join together in observing this day/week by spending time with their families and by engaging in appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor and strengthen the City of Athens and State of Alabama families.



*William R. Marks*  
William R. Marks, Mayor