

# THE CITY OF SAVANNAH GEORGIA



*Foundations*

*WHEREAS:* The month of November is recognized across the country as National Runaway Prevention Month since 2002, a public awareness campaign designed to “Shine a Light” on the experiences of runaway and homeless youth (RHY) that too often remain invisible and will be observed in the Savannah community to bring more awareness to this nationally recognized humanitarian issue; and

*WHEREAS:* The prevalence of runaway and homelessness among youth is staggering, with studies suggesting that each year, nationally, over 4.2 million young people ages 13-25 endure some form of homelessness from all walks of life, including children in the City of Savannah; and

*WHEREAS:* Runaway youth are often expelled from their home, have experienced trauma, struggle to meet basic needs, and are at increased danger of falling into high-risk situation, including human trafficking; and

*WHEREAS:* Effective programs supporting and assisting runaway youth and their families to provide safe and stable homes succeed because of partnerships created amongst families, local government, youth-based advocacy organizations, community-based human services agencies, law enforcement, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses as well as local organizations like Park Place Outreach and Greenbriar Children’s Center working to lower homelessness, to raise awareness, provide support, offer resources for vulnerable young people in the Savannah community and surrounding.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I Van R. Johnson, II, Mayor of the City of Savannah, on behalf of the Savannah City Council do hereby also recognize November 2022, as*

**“NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH”**

*In the City of Savannah, GA, we urge all citizens to support the efforts to increase public awareness about, advocate on behalf of, and provide positive and safe alternatives to runaway and homeless youth and their families.*

*An Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Savannah, Georgia to be affixed.  
This 1<sup>ST</sup> day of, NOVEMBER 2022*

*Van R. Johnson II*  
MAYOR

ATTEST  
*M. Masser*  
Clerk of Council

