COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Board of Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Chairman Charles W. Oddo
Meeting Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2015	Type of Request:	Proclamation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Proclamation of Friday, March 27, 2015, as "Advo-Kids Casa Day."

Background/History/Details:

Advo-Kids CASA is a community-based non-profit program that recruits, trains, and supports citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and the community. These children, who have been removed from their homes for their own safety and placed in state custody, are at greater risk for future welfare dependency, school drop-out, unemployment, delinquency and later incarceration, and the generational continuation of abuse and neglect.

Advo-Kids CASA is a member of the National Court Appointed Special Advocates network which encompasses CASA and Guardian ad Litem programs throughout the United States. Advo-Kids CASA serves abused and neglected children in the Griffin Judicial Circuit, which includes Fayette County.

CASA volunteer advocates are directly empowered by the courts to offer judges the critical information they need to ensure that each child's needs are met while in foster care, and that each child remains safe while in foster care. Above all, CASA volunteers help to ensure that each foster child finds a permanent home where he or she will live in the embrace of a loving family and to help ensure that each child has the opportunity to grow into his or her full potential. With a CASA volunteer, a child is half as likely to languish in the foster care and child welfare system, and is much more likely to find a safe, permanent home.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Proclamation of Friday, March 27, 2015, as "Advo-Kids Casa Day." Executive Director Nadine Tyft will receive the proclamation on behalf of Advo-Kids CASA.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ADVO-KIDS CASA DAY

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Neglect and abuse of children is one of the most pressing family, health and social problems in the United States, including failure to insure safety and support, physical abuse, sexual abuse, medical neglect and educational neglect; and

WHEREAS, Every day in Georgia there are 200 reports of child abuse and neglect and 33 children daily are the victims of confirmed abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, On any given day about 200 children in the Griffin Judicial Circuit are wards of the state in the complex foster care and juvenile legal systems; and

WHEREAS, Advo-Kids CASA recruits, screens, trains, and supervises community volunteers to advocate in the juvenile courts for the best interest of abused and neglected children in order to help ensure their return to safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible, to help ensure they remain safe while in foster care and to help ensure that these children receive all needed health, educational and psychological services while in foster care; and

WHEREAS, CASA volunteers are appointed by juvenile court judges to independently investigate the circumstances of abused and neglected children who are before the court in order to present bet interest recommendations that assist the court in deciding the futures of these children; and

WHEREAS, Advo-Kids CASA has provided volunteer-based child advocacy services for 628 children since its inception in 2005; and

WHEREAS, On March 23, 2015, Advo-Kids CASA and its volunteer corps of 50 caring and committed volunteer advocates celebrate ten years of service to the children of Fayette County; and

NOW THEREFORE, WE THE FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS do hereby proclaim Monday, March 23 as ADVO-KIDS CASA DAY and in doing so we urge all citizens to support local and government agencies who work tirelessly to eliminate child abuse in Fayette County and in all of Georgia's counties. We furthermore extend our heartfelt appreciation to Advo-Kids CASA, their employees and volunteers, who diligently work to protect the children of our community.

So proclaimed this 27th day of March 2015,

_____

CHARLES W. ODDO, Chairman