

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-10-013**

**SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONERS STEVE MIKELS AND JEFF JOPLING**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BLOUNT COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS TO PROTECT CHILDREN**

**WHEREAS**, the future of Blount County, Tennessee relies on the health and wellbeing of its children and young people; and

**WHEREAS**, children are our greatest treasure, and our most vulnerable population; we must always weigh the risk of harm to children in public policy decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, we value integrity and excellence and will not trade the innocence of children for other governmental goals; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting the innocence of children should be an issue of concern for all adults; and

**WHEREAS**, adults and children are increasingly overtly sexualized in our nation, state, and county; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation the average age of a child sold for sex is 13 years old and human trafficking is the second-fastest growing criminal industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the exposure to and normalization of sexualized behaviors reduces children's inhibitions and ability to protect themselves from the sexual advances of others; and

**WHEREAS**, children learn from observing and subsequently acting out the behaviors they have observed. Children who have observed sexualized behaviors or who have been the victim of sexual assault may act out with other children at home or school, which may lead to additional child victims; and

**WHEREAS**, the normalization of sexualized behaviors and content to children is not in the long-term interest of children or society; wholesome, good, and honorable content and activities should be promoted to children instead.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Blount County Board of Commissioners meeting in regular session on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ is committed to protecting the innocence of children, and to cultivating healthy children, families, communities, and institutions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, no county staff or resources shall be allocated to activities, programs, events, content, or institutions which support, normalize, or encourage the sexualization of children and youth provided; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution applies to the extent that it does not conflict with Tennessee law; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board encourages individuals and communities to promote the good and the honorable to children rather than the normalization of sexual behaviors, protecting the health and wellbeing of our children and the future of our county; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be mailed by the County Clerk to the members of the Tennessee General Assembly representing the people of Blount County, Tennessee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be mailed by the County Clerk to members of the U.S. Congress representing the people of Blount County, Tennessee.

**CERTIFICATION OF ACTION**

**ATTEST**

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Commission Chairman

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County Clerk

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County Mayor

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Date

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Vetoed