

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, unstructured, unplanned, spontaneous, and self-motivated play is on the decline, as fewer children spend time outside at parks and playgrounds, in part because in many parts of the country only one in five live within walking distance of a park or playground and recess is being shortened or eliminated from school curriculums; and

WHEREAS, having play time is a valuable part of a child's healthy development, as children who play are healthier and suffer less obesity and obesity-related health problems such as diabetes and heart disease. Children who play do better in school and develop cognitive skills that are linked to learning and academic performance. Children who play learn the social skills that help them become happy and well-adjusted adults; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ormond Beach acknowledges that children are our most valuable resource, and that we must promote and ensure an abundance of safe and accessible play spaces for all our children; and

WHEREAS, Playful City USA is a national program advocating for local policies that increase play opportunities for children and is a key platform in combating the play deficit. KaBOOM!, the national non-profit organization dedicated to saving play, created Playful City USA in 2007 to help local governments address the play deficit and it is through mayors, city council members, parks and recreation departments, school districts, and community leaders that the program succeeds in benefitting children; and

WHEREAS, KaBOOM! selected Ormond Beach for its outstanding dedication to play. Ormond Beach continues to expand play opportunities especially through community partnerships thus insuring the quality of life for residents of Ormond Beach;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ed Kelley, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2012, as a

PLAY DAY

in the City of Ormond Beach and encourage all citizens to rally for an abundance of time and space for free unstructured play for all children in this community and to celebrate the achievements we have made in making it a priority in Ormond Beach.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 15th day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twelve.




ED KELLEY
Mayor