



A PROCLAMATION

Declaring



APRIL 2024 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, Children are valued in Linn County and should live in a safe, healthy home; and

WHEREAS, Preventing child abuse and neglect is a community value that depends on the involvement of people community wide in order to provide access to the resources needed for safe, healthy living; and

WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect not only directly harms children, but also increases the likelihood of health problems, poor education performance, substance abuse, and early pregnancy. These problems can compound themselves as the child becomes an adult. Abuse and neglect are far reaching with no social economic group immune and children of all races and ethnicities are victims. Child abuse is a total community problem affecting all levels of society; and

WHEREAS, There were 461 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Linn County during 2022, 48.5% of those children were six or younger with nearly 11% less than one year old; and

WHEREAS, During 2022, 19 Oregon children died from causes related to familial or caregiver abuse and/or neglect. Fifteen of those who died were five or younger, and 10 were less than one year old. Fourteen deaths resulted from neglect, four from abuse, and one from neglect and abuse; and

WHEREAS, The prevention of child abuse needs to be addressed by the entire community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Susan Coleman, Mayor, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" and call upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to support children and their families in living safe and healthy lives, and in doing so, helping to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Proclaimed this 26th day of March, 2024.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager - Ex Officio City Recorder