Child Abuse Prevention Month 2016

WHEREAS, Oregon's future prosperity depends on nurturing the healthy development of over 4 million children currently living, growing, and learning within our many diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, research shows that safe and nurturing relationships and stimulating and stable environments improve brain development and child well-being, while neglectful or abusive experiences and unstable or stressful environments increase the odds of poor childhood outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly and lifelong problems affecting all of society, including physical and mental health problems, school failure and criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, research also shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

WHEREAS, individuals, businesses, schools, and faith-based and community organizations must make children a top priority and take action to support the physical, social, emotional and educational development and competency of all children; and

WHEREAS, during the month of April, Prevent Child Abuse Oregon in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Children and Families will be engaging communities throughout Oregon in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices and the types of concrete support families need within their communities; and

WHEREAS, the HART Family Resource Center, in cooperation with other community organizations, is promoting the message about Child Abuse Prevention Month through the "Pinwheel for Prevention" campaign by handing out and having blue pinwheels displayed throughout the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I ROBERT DUNCAN, MAYOR, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as Child Abuse prevention Month and urge all residents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in Harrisburg to engage in activities whose purpose is to strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development.

SO PROCLAIMED this 23rd day of March, 2016.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARRISBURG

Robert Duncan

By Robert Duncan, Mayor

WITNESS

Michele Eldridge

Michele Eldridge, City Recorder/Asst. City Administrator