

**PROCLAMATION**  
**April, 2021 "Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month"**

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

**WHEREAS**, In 2019, 18.2% (5,051) Linn County children 0-17 were living in poverty, 20.9% (5840) were food insecure and 5.2% (1180) students were homeless; 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 533 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Linn County during 2019.

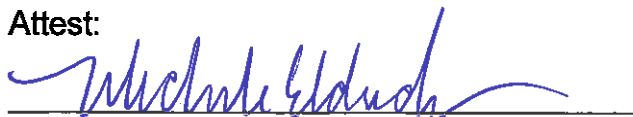
**WHEREAS**, During 2019, there were 23 Oregon children who died from causes related to familial/caregiver abuse and/or neglect; 17 of those who died were five years old or younger with 12 of these 17 being less than one year old; and

**WHEREAS**, The prevention of child abuse needs to be addressed by the entire community; and now, therefore, the City of Harrisburg proclaims April, 2021 as "Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month" throughout Harrisburg and calls 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, therefore, helping to preventing child abuse and neglect.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, we have set our hands and caused the seal of the City of Harrisburg to be affixed this date of April 13, 2021.

  
Robert Duncan, Mayor

Attest:

  
City Recorder