

**PROCLAMATION**

**April, 2022 "Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month"**

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

**WHEREAS**, Based on the latest data available in the most recent reports from the State of Oregon and Our Children Oregon, 16.4% of Linn County children 0-17 were living in poverty, 18.6% (2018) were food insecure and 4.7% (2019-20) students lacked stable housing; 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

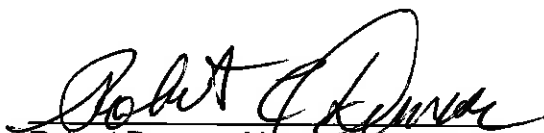
**WHEREAS**, Child abuse and neglect not only directly harms children, but also increases the likelihood of health problems, poor education performance, substance abuse and early pregnancy. These problems can compound themselves as the child becomes an adult. Abuse and neglect are far reaching with no 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**, For all counties combined, there were 535 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in 2020, 48.5% of those children were six or younger with nearly 11% less than one year old. And

**WHEREAS**, During 2020, there were 16 Oregon children who died from causes related to familial/caregiver abuse and/or neglect; 13 of those who died were five years old or younger with 9 of these 16 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, 2022 as "Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month" throughout Linn County 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 12, 2022.

  
Robert Duncan, Mayor

  
City Recorder