COUNCIL MEMO

MEETING DATE: March 10, 2026
STAFF: Sammy Egbert, City Recorder

Child Abuse Prevention and Mandatory Reporting Requirements

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is observed every April across the United States. It is dedicated to increasing awareness of child abuse and neglect, strengthening families, and promoting community-based prevention strategies. Key historical points include:

- The month was **officially designated in 1983** by President Ronald Reagan.
- Its foundation stems from the **1974 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)**, which emphasized prevention and family support.
- The **Blue Ribbon Campaign**, started in 1989, has become a national symbol of child abuse prevention.

City of Coburg Participation

- The City of Coburg began issuing proclamations recognizing National Child Abuse Prevention Month in **2010**.
- Each April, staff share information, resources, and awareness materials with the community.
- The City also promotes the **Blue Ribbon Campaign** to encourage community involvement in child safety and family well-being.

Mandatory Reporting Reminder for Elected Officials

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Oregon Legislature passed **HB 3071**, amending ORS 419B.005 to expand the definition of "public or private official" for mandatory reporting purposes. The amendment added subsection (6)(s), which includes:

"An **elected official** of a branch of government of this state or a state agency, board, commission or department of a branch of government of this state or of a **city**, county or other political subdivision in this state." This change became **operative January 1, 2022**, and city elected officials are now legally required to report suspected child abuse.

Training Resource

- The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) provides: A dedicated webpage on **Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and a** A **30-minute training video** covering: The role and responsibilities of mandatory reporters, Recognizing signs of abuse and neglect, How and when to make a report.
- League of Oregon Cities Oregon Municipal Handbook, Chapter 30: Abuse Reporting (attached)
- Oregon Department of Human Services flyer "Reporting Child Abuse in Oregon"

These resources support elected officials in fulfilling their statutory obligations.