

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, Therefore, I Greg Mahler, Mayor, do hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

PROCLAIMED this 23rd day of March 2021

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder