

PROCLAMATION

Child Abuse Prevention Month April 2021

WHEREAS, each April, Child Abuse Prevention Month activities are held in communities across the nation to raise awareness about child abuse and the need for the entire community to become involved. During this month of awareness, we renew our commitment to preventing child abuse and rededicate ourselves to working together to ensure all children can have a bright and hopeful future; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem that depends on involvement among people throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect not only directly harm children, but also increases the likelihood of health problems, poor education performance, substance abuse, early pregnancy, and criminal behavior. These problems can compound themselves as the child becomes an adult; and

WHEREAS, abuse and neglect are far more reaching than you might imagine. No socioeconomic group is immune; children of all races and ethnicities are victims of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, during 2019, there were 533 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Linn County and 23 Oregon children who died from causes related to familial/caregiver abuse and/or neglect; 17 of those were 5 years old or younger, and 12 of those 17 were less than one year old; and

WHEREAS, effective prevention programs succeed through partnerships of community groups that help support parents to provide a safe and nurturing environment; child abuse is a *total* community problem affecting all levels of society; and the effects of child abuse need to be addressed by the entire community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Alexander D. Johnson II, Mayor of the city of Albany, Oregon, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as

Child Abuse Prevention Month

in Albany, and call upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to recognize and prevent child abuse.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Albany to be affixed this 24th day of March 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander D. Johnson II".

Alexander D. Johnson II, Mayor