



Proclamation

Whereas, child abuse is considered to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems with scientific studies documenting the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological and behavioral disorders; and

Whereas, it is estimated that 1 in 4 children will suffer significant abuse before the age of 18, and annually over 80,000 Oregonian children – 78,632 in 2020 -- are reported to the Department of Human Services as having been abused or neglected with 11,642 child abuse victims confirmed in 2020 alone, although many cases go unreported – and this was especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic when many children were isolated and away from the eye of mandatory reporters; and

Whereas, the physical, emotional, mental and financial impact of abuse falls on children of all ages and abilities, who come from all economic, racial and social backgrounds; and these crimes affect many more family members, friends, neighbors and community; and

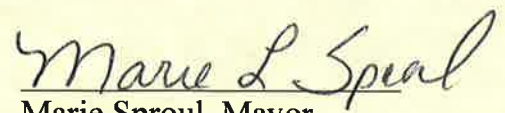
Whereas, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among state and local government agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

Whereas, the City of Lafayette is dedicated to strengthening child abuse survivors and their non-offending families in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities, and working to prevent abuse and neglect.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby proclaim April 2022 to be

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Signed,


Marie Sproul, Mayor