

- WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are serious problems affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and
- WHEREAS, nearly 2,300 Clark County children were subjects of child abuse reports in 2023; and
- WHEREAS, the Arthur D. Curtis Children's Justice Center responded to over 700 children who were the most seriously harmed by physical and sexual abuse and sexual exploitation in 2023; and
- WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and
- WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among the courts, social service agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement and the business community; and
- WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and
- WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, Washington, do hereby proclaim the Month of April as:

## " Child Abuse Prevention Month "

in the City of Vancouver and urge all community members to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 21st day April 2025.

line M

ANNE MCENERNY-ÓGLE, MAYOR