

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, the future of Thurston County rests in the hands of one of our most vulnerable and cherished assets: our children; and

WHEREAS, since 2011, Thurston County has experienced higher rates in severe instances of child abuse and neglect that have come to the attention of the Department of Social and Health Services than in previous years; and

WHEREAS, child abuse continues to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems and Thurston County currently has the third highest per-capita rate of Adverse Childhood Experience scores in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, our communities are stronger when all citizens are engaged in preventing child maltreatment and are involved in supporting families to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children, which will give them the opportunity to become caring, contributing members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Thurston Council for Children and Youth is working with community organizers to bring attention to domestic violence in our community and to identify preventative measures to reduce harm to children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Olympia City Council proclaims April 2014 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

and calls upon all citizens, communities, state agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 1st DAY OF APRIL, 2014.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

***Stephen H. Buxbaum
Mayor***