

**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, the future of the residents of the City of Olympia rests in the hands of one of our most vulnerable and cherished assets, our children; and*

*WHEREAS, over the course of 2018, our youth have experienced a significant rise in family problems and a significant increase in the number of cases of child victims admitted to Child Protective Services; 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, Thurston County has formed a Child Abuse Prevention Task Force to bring attention to domestic violence in our community and to identify preventative measures to reduce harm to children; and*

*WHEREAS, we, as Olympia residents, continue our commitment to protecting all residents, and call upon all citizens to join together to increase public safety and prevent further abuse and neglect towards our children; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Olympia proclaims April 2018 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 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2018.***

***OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL***

***Cheryl Selby  
Mayor***