

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 05-044

Proclaiming April 2005 Child Abuse Prevention Month in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

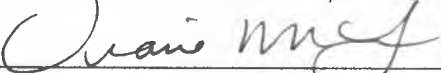
- a. Child abuse is preventable. To truly prevent child abuse, however, will take the efforts of each and every citizen in Multnomah County.
- b. In spite of its preventability, incidences of child abuse continue to escalate and remain an unrelenting public health and safety problem.
- c. Citizens can help prevent child abuse by understanding and becoming aware of the factors that lead to abuse. Each of us can reach out to a parent experiencing stress, a factor that can lead to abuse, by baby-sitting or running errands. We can all learn that, while child abuse occurs in every segment of society, the risks are greater in families that may be isolated from friends and relatives, that are experiencing economic hardships, or have substance abuse problems. We can also learn the warning signs of child abuse, including nervousness around adults, aggression, frequent or unexplained bruises and injuries, and low self-esteem. And we can make it our duty to report suspected abuse by calling the 24-hour Child Abuse Reporting Hotline at 503 731-3100.
- d. Prevention also means more than reporting child abuse. Prevention also means stopping abuse before it ever starts. Programs like Multnomah County's Healthy Start Initiative offers support to all first-time parents in the County, who may be overwhelmed at the prospect of parenting. The program offers help in raising children in a safe and nurturing environ.
- e. Child abuse prevention will succeed if our County, our schools, our religious organizations, our law enforcement agencies and the community as a whole partner in this effort.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

1. The month of April 2005 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.
2. The Board of County Commissioners calls upon all citizens to increase their participation in the effort to prevent child abuse, and helping strengthen the community in which we live.

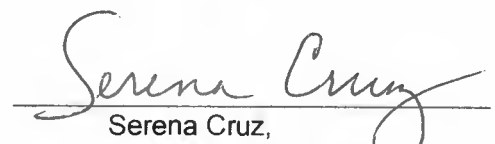
ADOPTED this 31st day of March, 2005.

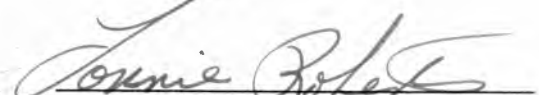
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


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