

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Proclamation of Child Abuse Prevention Month
DEPARTMENT: CMO/HS
PRESENTED BY: Rob Beem, Human Services Manager

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

Each week in the United States the child protective service agencies receive more than 50,000 reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. In approximately two-thirds of these cases, the information provided in the report is sufficient to prompt an assessment or investigation. As a result of these investigations, more than 2,450 children per day are found to be victims of abuse or neglect. In 2002, an average of nearly four children died every day as a result of child abuse or neglect.

The impact of child abuse and neglect is far greater than its immediate, visible effects. These experiences can shape child development and have consequences that last years, even lifetimes. Studies have found abused or neglected children to be at least 25 percent more likely to experience problems in adolescence; and as adults, such children have an increased likelihood of criminal behavior, involvement in violent crime, abuse of alcohol and other drugs, and abusive behavior. Research now shows that the physical, psychological and behavioral consequences of child abuse and neglect impact not just the child and family, but the community as a whole.

April is Child Abuse Prevention month and calls attention to the importance of all of us working together to prevent child abuse. Caroline Shelton, of the Children's Response Center, will be present at the meeting to accept the proclamation. The Children's Response Center works to provide "a safe and nurturing environment, a home and community free of sexual assault and other trauma and the pain and disruption these cause." In 1989 it was designated as a national Community Partnership Example of Excellence by the American Association for Protecting Children.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney 



PROCLAMATION

Whereas, every child deserves to be cared for in a safe and nurturing environment and we all have a responsibility as neighbors and community members to support one another and keep children safe from harm; and

Whereas, because child abuse is a community problem, finding solutions requires the collective efforts of the entire community; and

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created between local government, social service agencies, schools, religious and civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, businesses, and the medical community; and

Whereas, citizens should become more aware of prevention efforts within our community, which range from helping families gain access to needed resources such as employment and housing assistance and parenting education, to providing children with support to help them succeed in school; and

Whereas, the Children's Response Center provides services that increase the safety of our children through collaborations with the Center for Human Services, the City of Shoreline's Police and Human Services and Shoreline Public Schools;

Now, therefore, I, Ronald B. Hansen do hereby proclaim the month of April 2005 as:

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Shoreline, and encourage all citizens to participate in the effort to prevent child abuse and neglect and to remember that *together* we can create a safe community where *all* children and families thrive.

Ronald B. Hansen, Mayor