

## **PROCLAMATION**

April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month

WHEREAS, In Garden Grove, as in any community, children are our most precious members who deserve to grow in a safe, happy, healthy, stable, and caring environment where they can experience the wonders and innocence of a childhood free of violence, neglect, and abuse;

WHEREAS, the latest data is based on federal fiscal year 2020, with over 3.9 million reports nationwide with infants and young children suffering the highest rates of abuse and neglect;

WHEREAS, in 2020, 618,399 children were determined to be victims of maltreatment, with the most common form of maltreatment in the U.S. being neglect;

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences;

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children;

WHEREAS, effective prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community and faith based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families;

WHEREAS, the City of Garden Grove actively places efforts in raising awareness and preventing child abuse through family support services offered by the Magnolia Park Family Resource Center and the Buena Clinton Youth and Family Center;

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute 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, the Garden Grove City Council does hereby proclaim April 2022 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in Garden Grove, and urges all communities to take actions to end the tragedy of child abuse and neglect in our nation.

April 12, 2022