

PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING APRIL 2017 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH AND SUPPORTING THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL'S BLUE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, as a community we have a responsibility to nurture and protect our children and help ensure they become healthy and productive adults; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 California had 494,062 allegations of child abuse reported to Child Welfare Services with 70,859 substantiated; and

WHEREAS, in Solano County, 5,680 reports of child abuse were reported in 2015, with 477 of those reports substantiated; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect have an estimated lifetime cost per child of \$232,311 and using 2015 statistics for Solano County that is a total cost of over \$110.8 million for a single year; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies confirm a direct link between child abuse and a significantly greater risk later in life of alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, sexual promiscuity, smoking, suicide and certain chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, the number of children with allegations of abuse or neglect between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016 in Dixon, California, was 229; and

WHEREAS, the effects of child abuse are felt by whole communities, and need to be addressed by the entire community; and

WHEREAS, to help ensure the safety and well being of our children, our communities must also be committed to supporting and strengthening families; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of collaborative partnerships created among the courts, social service agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, community organizations, medical institutions, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, the Solano Children's Alliance and the Children's Network along with the Family Resource Center Network are sponsoring the *Blue Ribbon Campaign* during the month of April, to promote public awareness of the abuse and neglect of children, and the resources available to support families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Dixon hereby recognizes April 2017 as *Child Abuse Prevention Month* and calls upon all residents to join in efforts to support the health and wellbeing of children and to help prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening our communities.

Date: April 11, 2017

Thom Bogue, Mayor