

**DECLARING APRIL 2023
AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

Whereas, the tragedy of child abuse and neglect affects every community in California and touches the lives of far too many citizens regardless of cultural, ethnic, religious, or socioeconomic level; and

Whereas, the threat to our children’s welfare is demonstrated by steady increases in the number and in the seriousness of reported cases of child abuse and neglect; and

Whereas, if our children are to be productive adults, they should have the right to a childhood free from neglect, physical abuse, sexual molestation, and exploitation; and

Whereas, it is recognized that primary prevention programs designed to work with children themselves, their parents, and caregivers within the community and successful in preventing first time abuse situations; and

Whereas, early identification and intervention are essential to successfully interrupting the generational cycle of abuse and neglect. Collaboration among professionals, concerned parents, volunteers and policy makers can help reduce the level of child abuse and neglect in our communities; and

Whereas, dedicated volunteers and professionals are working to decrease the incidence of child abuse through prevention programs and coordination among agencies delivering services to child abuse victims and their families; and

Whereas, the observance of Child abuse Prevention Month provides an excellent opportunity for all citizens to reflect on this tragic crime, while rededicating themselves to taking an active role in child abuse prevention activities in their community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wheatland City Council do, hereby proclaim April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention month in the City of Wheatland and encourage all residents to join with local community efforts in keeping all children “SAFE STRONG AND FREE.”

Proclaimed this 11th day of April 2023

Rick West, Mayor