

of

Vulnerable Adults and Elder Abuse Awareness Month

- WHEREAS,** Buncombe County's vulnerable and elder adults deserve to live safely with dignity; and
- WHEREAS,** vulnerable and elder adults of all socio-economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds may be targets of abuse, neglect or exploitation which occurs in families, long term care facilities and communities; and
- WHEREAS,** 1,580 reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable and elder adults were made to Buncombe County Health and Human Services in 2013, with 1,056 screened for evaluation, which was the second highest number among all 100 counties in North Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** many cases of elder abuse and mistreatment go unreported and professionals are often unaware of the problem; and
- WHEREAS,** protecting Buncombe County's vulnerable and elder adults is a community responsibility and it is imperative that communities work together to help reduce and prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation including physical, psychological or financial abuse; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2030, it is projected that 3 in 10 residents of Buncombe County will be over the age of 60; and
- WHEREAS,** all residents should watch for signs of abuse such as physical trauma, withdrawal, depression, anxiety, fear of family members, friends or caregivers and report suspected abuse or exploitation to the County Health and Human Services office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That this Board does hereby proclaim June 2014 as:

Vulnerable Adults and Elder Abuse Awareness Month

in Buncombe County.

2. That this Board does hereby encourage all citizens to participate in community efforts to support and improve the safety and well-being of vulnerable and elder adults and secure their right to live free of abuse, neglect and exploitation.
3. That this proclamation be effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this the 17th day of June, 2014.

Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

BY: _____
David Gantt, Chairman