

County of Buncombe

Proclamation

ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, In 2006, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, in support of the United Nations International Plan of Action, proclaimed a day to recognize the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County's vulnerable and elder adults deserve to live safely with dignity; and

WHEREAS, 2021 marks the 16th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Its recognition will promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older adults; 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, Buncombe County Adult Protective Services received 1,794 reports in 2020 with 1,183 screened in for evaluation; and

WHEREAS, We know that elder abuse and mistreatment are underreported according to a study by the World Health Organization that found only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse is reported; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing that it is up to all of us, to ensure that proper social structures exist so people can retain community and societal connections, reducing the likelihood of abuse; 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; 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.

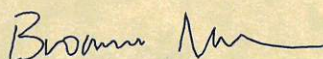
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the month of June, 2021 be proclaimed:

"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, June 1, 2021.



Brownie Newman
Chairman, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners