

County of Buncombe
Proclamation

Elder Abuse Awareness Month

Whereas, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15th. On June 15, 2006, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations launched World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) and proclaimed this day as 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, 2023 marks the 18th 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 **2090** reports in FY22 with **1,238** screened in for evaluation; and

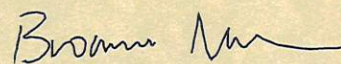
Whereas, We know that elder abuse and mistreatment are underreported with an estimation of **only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse being reported**; and

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, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim June 2023 as Elder Abuse Awareness Month. We urge 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. This proclamation is effective upon its adoption.



Brownie Newman, Chairman
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners