



CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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COUNTY MANAGER

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Proclamation of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Proclaiming Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse and Exploitation Awareness Month in Chatham County

WHEREAS, Chatham County wishes to join the state, nation and world in recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on Sunday, June 15, 2025, and the state of North Carolina in recognizing the period between Mother's Day (May 11th) and Father's Day (June 15th) as Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse and Exploitation Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the National Council on Aging reports that up to 5 million older Americans are abused annually, yet only 1 in 24 cases of abuse is reported to authorities, and the annual loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$36.5 billion; and

WHEREAS, abuse, exploitation and neglect (self and caregiver) of vulnerable and older adults affect persons of every social, economic, racial and ethnic background; and

WHEREAS, protecting vulnerable and older adults is a civic responsibility, with State law requiring all persons to report suspected abuse, neglect (including self-neglect), or exploitation to County Social Services; and

WHEREAS, fraud and scams against older adults remain a major problem, robbing people of both their income and their dignity; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Department of Social Services, the Chatham County Aging Services, and the Chatham County Sheriff's Office are among the many local organizations and groups working to raise greater awareness about elder abuse in its various forms.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners that May 11, 2025 through June 15, 2025 is proclaimed Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse and Exploitation Awareness Month and calls upon the people of Chatham County to observe the month of honoring and respecting vulnerable and older adults, helping prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation, and taking steps to otherwise promote their well-being.

Adopted, this the 5th day of May, 2025.

Karen Howard, Chair

ATTEST:

Jenifer K Johnson, Clerk to the Board