



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Amanda Robertson, Chair
Franklin Gomez Flores, Vice Chair
David Delaney
Karen Howard
Katie Kenlan

COUNTY MANAGER: Bryan Thompson

Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

RECOGNIZING 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 June 15, 2026. Chatham County also acknowledges the period between Mother’s Day (May 10, 2026) and Father’s Day (June 21, 2026) for intentional efforts to promote awareness of vulnerable adults and elder abuse and exploitation in our local community; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County joins in support of the Department of Health and Human Services of North Carolina’s 2026 awareness theme of “Hands, Hearts, Action! – Small Steps Towards Big Change.”; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Council on Aging, 1 in 10 Americans 60+ years of age have experienced some form of elder abuse with only 1 in 24 cases being reported to authority, with nearly 47% of perpetrators being family members. The estimated annual losses total over \$28 billion each year for older adults who are victims of financial abuse; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services reports that Chatham County is expected to see a 65% increase in the number of residents 65+ years of age when comparing the years of 2022 to 2042; with about 14% of this age group living in poverty in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County Department of Social Services has seen a 31% increase in reports of abuse and exploitation reports for adults, with an increase of 9% for accepted reports when comparing fiscal year 21 and fiscal year 25. Chatham County has also seen a 19% increase in the number of adults who are now under guardianship of the Department; and

WHEREAS, during Vulnerable Adults and Elder Abuse and Exploitation month, we acknowledge the importance of small steps of education and connection to our elderly population to ensure they feel safe, supported, and seen as they age, with many identifying relationships with individuals of importance as a key source of meaning in their lives, as just over 25% of this population live alone (OSBM, 2020; APA, 2025); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes May 10, 2026 through June 21, 2026 as Vulnerable and Elder Abuse and Exploitation Awareness month in Chatham County and call upon all residents, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their engagement with our aging population and look for intentional opportunities to support this population.

Adopted, this the 4th day of May 2026.

Amanda Robertson, Chair

ATTEST:

Jenifer K Johnson, Clerk to the Board

Integrity – Respect – Collaboration – Community – Equity – Service – Accountability