

PROCLAMATION

of

Vulnerable Adults and Elder Abuse Awareness Month

- WHEREAS,** Buncombe County's seniors deserve to live safely with dignity; and
- WHEREAS,** vulnerable and older 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,** elder abuse is most often defined as any act that harms a senior or jeopardizes his or her health or welfare; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2011 more than 19, 553 reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable and older adults were made to North Carolina's 100 County Departments of Social Services; and
- WHEREAS,** protecting Buncombe County's vulnerable and older adults is a community responsibility and it is imperative that communities work together to help reduce and prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2030, 1 in 4 North Carolinians 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.

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 2012 as:

Vulnerable Adults and Elder Abuse Awareness Month

in Buncombe County.

2. That this Board does here by encourage all citizens to participate in community efforts to support and improve the safety and well-being of vulnerable and older 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 5th day of June, 2012.

Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

BY: _____
David Gantt, Chairman