

**DESIGNATING JUNE 15, 2022 AS WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY IN THE  
CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VIRGINIA**

**WHEREAS, the Colonial Heights City Council recognizes that in 2006, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse proclaimed June 15<sup>th</sup> of each year as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day; and Whereas, according to the Department of Justice (DOJ) Elder Abuse Initiative, elder abuse is an intentional or negligent act by any person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to an older adult; subtypes of elder abuse include physical abuse, financial fraud, scams, exploitation, caregiver neglect and abandonment, psychological abuse, and sexual abuse; and**

**WHEREAS, DOJ also reports that elder abuse is a serious crime against some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens, affecting at least 10 percent of older Americans every year; and**

**WHEREAS, some risk factors for elder abuse can include low social supports, poor physical health, and experience of previous traumatic events, according to the National Center on Elder Abuse; and**

**WHEREAS, close to half of elderly individuals who suffer from dementia will experience abuse during their lifetime, according to the Department of Justice. Research suggested that elderly individuals who experience cognitive impairment, physical disabilities, and isolation are more likely to become the victims of abuse than those without disabilities; and**

**WHEREAS, DARS also reports that the majority of incidents of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation occurs in the adult's own house or apartment; and National Adult Protective Services Association reports that approximately 90 percent of the perpetrators in elder financial exploitation case are family members or other trusted individuals; and**

**WHEREAS, elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation have no boundaries and cross all racial, social, class, gender, and geographic lines, according to the Elder Justice Coalition; and**

**WHEREAS, only a small fraction of elder abuse cases is reported to the authorities, public awareness of elder abuse has the potential to increase identification and reporting of this crime by the public, professionals, and victims; and**

**WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau, Population Division 2020: *American Community Survey (ACS) -year Estimates Subject Tables*" prepared by the Crater Planning District Commission, reports that the total number of Virginians over the age of 60 numbers 1,838,379 seniors; and**

**WHEREAS, the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) reported data for state fiscal year 2021, of the 39,185 reports of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation received through the Adult Protective Services Program, 77 percent, a four (4) percent increase over 2020, were persons age 60 years and older.**

**NOW, THEREFOR I, T. Gregory Kochuba, Mayor of Colonial Heights, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2022 to be Elder Abuse Awareness Day and recognize professionals, agencies, and advocates for their efforts to advance awareness of elder abuse; and I urge every resident in our community to take time during this important day to support older adults and the people who serve them as essential and valuable members of our community, and to identify and report suspected elder abuse within our community.**

Signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022

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T. Gregory Kochuba, Mayor

Attest:

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Pamela B. Wallace, City Clerk