

**DESIGNATING JUNE 15, 2023, AS WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY
IN THE CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VIRGINIA**

WHEREAS, the City of Colonial Heights recognizes that in 2006, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse proclaimed June 15th of each year as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day;

WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau, Population Division’s data “2020: American Community Survey-year Estimates Subject Tables” prepared by the Crater Planning District Commission, reports that the total number of Virginians age 60 and older numbers 1,838,379 seniors; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice 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, the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services reported Adult Protective Services data for state fiscal year 2022; of the 40,371 reports of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation received through the Adult Protective Services Program, 77 percent of the statewide data were persons age 60 years and older; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the APS reports of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation during fiscal year 2022 were reported by a relative followed by financial institution staff; and

WHEREAS, the Adult Protective Services Program report indicates that self-neglect is the most common type of maltreatment experienced in Virginia, at 62%; and neglect and financial exploitation, when combined occur in 27% of the cases, 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, the National Center on Elder Abuse will be sharing resources during the week of WEAAD, hosting discussions, and promoting awareness about elder abuse.

NOW THEREFORE, I, T. Gregory Kochuba, Mayor of the City of Colonial Heights, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2023 to be Elder Abuse Awareness Day and recognize professionals, agencies, and advocates for their efforts to advance awareness of elder abuse; and 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 13th day of June 2023.

T. Gregory Kochuba, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pamela B. Wallace, City Clerk