

PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, as our population lives longer, we as a society, need to be more attentive to the unique issues affecting our senior citizens; and,

WHEREAS, older adults deserve to be treated with respect and dignity to enable them to remain viable, healthy and contributing participants of our communities; and,

WHEREAS, elder abuse is a silent problem depriving seniors of their dignity, security, and—in some cases—costing them their lives; and,

WHEREAS, elder abuse includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation, neglect, and abandonment. Abusers include adult children, spouses, and other family members, as well as staff at nursing homes, assisted living, and other facilities; and,

WHEREAS, up to five million older Americans are abused every year, and the annual loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$36.5 billion; and,

WHEREAS, mental impairment and social isolation are major causes of elder abuse which can be alleviated through maintaining and improving social supports like senior centers, human services and transportation; and,

WHEREAS, by allowing older adults to continue to live as independently as possible and ensuring proper social structures exist will enable these individuals to retain community and societal connections and will help reduce the likelihood of abuse.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William A. Baird, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2021 as

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

to encourage our community to be more informed and vigilant about the signs of elder abuse and to celebrate older adults and their ongoing contributions to the success and vitality of our country.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri, this 8th day of June 2021.

MAYOR WILLIAM A. BAIRD