

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF KALAMAZOO**

Kalamazoo County

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**A PROCLAMATION to declare the month of June 2019 to be Elder Abuse Prevention Month and encourage all community members to recognize and act to prevent elder abuse.**

**WHEREAS**, our elders deserve our respect and gratitude for their humanity, experience, and ongoing contributions to the Charter Township of Kalamazoo. Our valued elders are an integral part of our community identity in many ways as they teach and preserve customs from many diverse backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, elder abuse refers to the intentional or negligent acts by a caregiver or trusted individual that causes harm to a vulnerable elder. Elder abuse can take many forms including: financial exploitation, physical abuse, neglect by a caregiver, verbal and emotional abuse, sexual abuse, or forced isolation; and

**WHEREAS**, elders are more likely to suffer from abuse when they have certain risk factors such as: social isolation or withdrawal, poor physical health, dementia, or mental health or substance abuse issues; and

**WHEREAS**, caregivers are more likely to perpetrate elder abuse when they have certain risk factors such as; mental health or substance abuse issues, a history of childhood trauma or conflict with the older person, social stresses such as marital conflict, unemployment, or economic problems, a lack of understanding of the older person's disease, or when they have little support from community and family members; and

**WHEREAS**, elder abuse can happen to anyone and can occur anywhere - in a person's own home, in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, even in hospitals. In America, it affects hundreds of thousands of elders across all socioeconomic groups, cultures, and races. More than two-thirds of elder abuse perpetrators are family members. The National Council on Aging estimates that 1 in 10 Americans over the age of 60 have experienced some form of elder abuse with only 1 in 14 of those cases of abuse reported to authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, elder abuse is grossly underreported because the elders who are being abused find it very difficult to tell anyone and are often ashamed or afraid; and

**WHEREAS**, all Kalamazoo Charter Township residents have an ethical responsibility to report suspicions of elder abuse to the statewide abuse hotline at 1-855-444-3911; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Kalamazoo Charter Township Board of Trustees hereby declares that June 2019 is Elder Abuse Prevention Month in the Charter Township of Kalamazoo and encourages all residents to honor their elders and to report all known or suspected instances of elder abuse.

Motion was made by Trustee Strebs, seconded by Supervisor Martin to adopt the foregoing resolution.

Upon roll call vote the following voted "Aye": Supervisor Donald D. Martin, Clerk Mark E. Miller, Treasurer Sherine M. Miller, Trustees Jeremy L. Hathcock, Nicolette Leigh, Steven C. Leuty, Jennifer A. Strebs

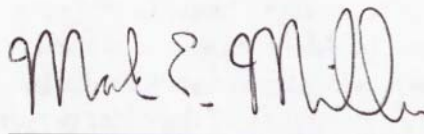
The following voted "Nay": None

The following were absent: None

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the Proclamation duly adopted, this date June 10, 2019.

#### CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a proclamation adopted at a regular meeting of the Kalamazoo Charter Township Board held on June 10, 2019; that the meeting was conducted and public notice of the meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act; that a quorum of the Board was present and voted in favor of the proclamation; and that the minutes of the meeting will be or have been made available as required by the Open Meetings Act.



Mark E. Miller, Clerk

Charter Township of Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo County, Michigan

Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019