

2026 RES-019

**RECOGNIZING JUNE 15TH 2026 AS WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY
IN DANE COUNTY DCDHS - ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

WHEREAS, adults age 65 or older comprise 18% of the total population in the USA; and

WHEREAS, research has indicated that at least 10% of adults age 65 and older will experience some form of elder abuse in a given year; and

WHEREAS, older adults deserve to be treated with respect and dignity to enable them to serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers, and vital participating members of our communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, in support of the United Nations International Plan of Action, proclaimed a day to recognize the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue; and

WHEREAS, 2026 marks the 20th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Its recognition will promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older adults; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, there were 505 reports of elder abuse investigated in Dane County and—knowing there are many more situations of abuse to our vulnerable adults that go unreported—Dane County recognizes the importance of taking action to raise awareness, prevent, and address elder abuse; and

WHEREAS, in 2026 the USA reached a record high life expectancy of 79 years for a child born in 2024, with the current population over 80 years of age at approximately 1 in 25 Americans, we are presented with an opportunity to think about our collective needs and future as a nation with a population projected to live longer; and

WHEREAS, ageism and social isolation are major causes of elder abuse in the United States, it is up to all of us to ensure that proper social structures exist so people can retain community and societal connections, reducing the likelihood of abuse; and;

WHEREAS, preventing abuse of older adults through maintaining and improving social supports like senior centers, human services, and transportation will allow everyone to continue to live as independently as possible and contribute to the life and vibrancy of our communities; and

WHEREAS, despite the dedicated efforts of the Dane County District Attorney's Office and local law enforcement to pursue justice and address elder abuse, our community must continue to work toward greater awareness, outreach, prevention, and support services so that older adults can live free from abuse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Dane County urges all residents to honor, protect, and advocate for older adults in pursuit of a community without elder abuse.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes June 15, 2026 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Dane County.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2026.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk