



# Board of Commissioners

## PRESS RELEASE

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### LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DECLARE JUNE 15 WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY IN LAKE COUNTY

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, June 2, 2022 – June 15, 2022 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day here in Lake County and across our country. It is the time of year when cities and states can take a moment to shed light on this significant issue. “This is an opportunity for Lake County to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons and raise awareness of elder abuse ensuring security and dignity for all seniors,” said Commissioner Hamercheck, president of the Board of Lake County Commissioners.

Elder abuse is a widespread issue affecting every community across the country. It is estimated that 1 in 10 older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Even more alarming is that research suggests that as few as 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse ever come to the attention of authorities. “Lake County is not immune to the issue of elder abuse,” said Commissioner Plecnik. “When we come together, we can prevent elder abuse from happening. We can put support services in place, and direct the necessary community resources.”

During the year 2021, the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services responded to over 430 calls concerning abuse, neglect or exploitation of a senior. Although these calls varied in nature, the one common theme was the mistreatment of a vulnerable member of our community. “The Lake County Department of Job and Family Services remains committed to investigating elder abuse and maltreatment. Our social workers continue to meet with elderly individuals in our community to assess them for safety and advocate on their behalf. We are also extremely fortunate to partner with other agencies in our community to best serve this population. If anyone suspects that an elderly individual in Lake County is being abused, neglected or exploited they should contact our agency to report their concerns,” said Job and Family Services Director Suzanne Casar.

The Board of Lake County Commissioners support and recognize the importance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. During their June 2 meeting, the Lake County Commissioners graciously passed a resolution declaring June 15, 2022, as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Lake County. To promote awareness of elder abuse in Lake County, the Association of Specialists in Aging, the Lake County Council on Aging, and the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services will host a World Elder Abuse Awareness walk on June 15 at 11:45 AM beginning at Job and Family Services and concluding at Veterans Park in the Painesville Square. All are welcome to attend, and participants are encouraged to wear purple, the color designated for elder abuse awareness.

For more information, or to report concerns of abuse, neglect or exploitation, contact the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services, Adult Protective Services Division at (440) 350-4000, press # 1.

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