

Proclamation

Adult Protection Awareness Month

June 2021

Elderly and adults with disabilities are vital members of our families, our society, and our community. Often, these residents are vulnerable to, fraud, abuse, neglect, exploitation and other types of mistreatment as they may not be able to provide their own care and protection. Raising awareness is a fundamental prevention strategy that involves not only disseminating new information, but also helping to change attitudes and behavior towards these populations who are vulnerable to mistreatment or self-neglect.

WHEREAS, in 2020, Mesa County Adult Protection received over 1500 reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation; and

WHEREAS, abuse of elderly and disabled persons is a tragedy inflicted on a vulnerable segment of the population that crosses all social, economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce adult abuse and neglect in Mesa County, there are a number of services that provide vital resources to this at-risk population; including a 24-hour hotline, investigation of mistreatment and self-neglect, assessment and mitigation of safety risks, as well as public education and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Adult Protection caseworkers and community partners utilized technology and creativity to reach survivors of maltreatment during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Adult Protection Awareness Month reminds us all of our common responsibility to ensure the health, safety, welfare, dignity, and well-being of all disabled and elderly adults.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fruita City Council hereby proclaims **JUNE 2021** as **ADULT PROTECTION AWARENESS MONTH** in the City of Fruita and urges all citizens to reach out with compassion and respect to adults with a unique set of circumstances to make a difference in their quality of life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We hereunto set our hands and cause to be affixed the official seal of the City of Fruita this 15th day of June, 2021.

Joel Kincaid, Mayor, City of Fruita

