

2024 PROCLAMATION DECLARING
JUNE AS ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, People who are elderly or have disabilities have contributed to the general welfare of **Polk County** by helping to preserve customs, convictions, and traditions of many people from diverse backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, these residents are vital and integral members of our society and their wisdom and experience have enriched our lives; and

WHEREAS, Abuse of the elderly and people with disabilities in domestic and institutional settings is a wide-spread problem, affecting hundreds of thousands of people across the country; and

WHEREAS, Texas APS In-Home Caseworkers in **Polk County** have completed **253** investigations of which **192** cases of Abuse, Neglect and/or Exploitation were confirmed against our elderly Texans or those with disabilities in **2021**;

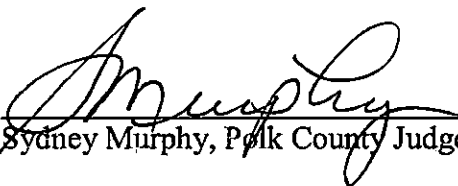
WHEREAS, Elder abuse is grossly underreported because the elderly who are being abused find it very difficult to tell anyone and are usually ashamed and sometimes afraid; and

WHEREAS, Elder abuse happens to men and women of all income levels, all cultural and ethnic groups, whether they are in good health or incapacitated in some way, in poor neighborhoods and in suburbia; and

WHEREAS, many of the cases investigated by Adult Protective Services in Texas involve self-neglect and it is our duty as citizens to reach out to people in need;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Sydney Murphy, Polk County Judge do hereby proclaim the month of **June 2024** to be Elder Abuse Prevention Month in **Polk County** and urge all citizens to work together to help reduce abuse and neglect of people who are elderly or have disabilities.

Dated this **25th** of **June, 2024**


Sydney Murphy, Polk County Judge