



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, CITY OF GREENVILLE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 12.1 percent of North Carolina citizens are 65 years of age or older;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one third of seniors over the age of 65, and half over the age of 80 will fall each year;

WHEREAS, falls are the leading national cause of doctor visits, hospital admissions, nursing home admissions and emergency room visits, resulting in an estimated \$27 billion in medical costs annually;

WHEREAS, falling, and the fear of falling, can lead to depression and hopelessness, loss of mobility, and loss of functional independence;

WHEREAS, older adults who fall once are two to three times more likely to fall again;

WHEREAS, 20 to 30 percent of older adults who fall suffer moderate to severe injuries such as bruising, hip fractures and head traumas;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that the mortality rate from falls among older adults increased 45 percent between 2000 and 2004;

WHEREAS, the quality of life is improved for North Carolina seniors who remain healthy, active and independent;

WHEREAS, injuries from falls are largely a preventable community health problem; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Falls Prevention Coalition and the Pitt County Fall Prevention Task Force are working to increase awareness of this issue and encourage North Carolinians to take steps to protect those who are at increased risk of falling;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of October, 2009 as

FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

in Greenville.

This 28th day of September, 2009.


Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor