

BRIEFING**DRAFT**

FORSYTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 16, 2020AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 16

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2020 AS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH IN FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

Each year January is recognized as National Radon Action Month by the EPA and educational information is dispensed to raise public awareness about radon and its impacts on human health. Radon forms naturally as a result of uranium decaying in our rock and soil. Radon is a radioactive gas which is undetectable without radon testing. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and is responsible for more than 20,000 deaths annually in the United States. Elevated levels of radon in a home can be easily mitigated to reduce health risks of the occupants. In January 2020, the NC Department of Health and Human Services Radon Program will have 3,000 free radon test kits available through their website for NC citizens to test their homes. The Forsyth County Office of Environmental Assistance and Protection has radon test kits available year-round for \$6 each.

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: _____

COUNTY MANAGER

DATE: _____

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2020 AS
NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH IN
FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that may threaten the health of our citizens and their families;

WHEREAS radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. and is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers;

WHEREAS the National Academy of Sciences estimates that over 20,000 lung cancer deaths occur in the United States each year;

WHEREAS radon is found in one in 15 homes across the U.S. at elevated levels;

WHEREAS any home may have elevated levels of radon, even if neighboring homes do not, and living in a home with an average radon level of four picocuries per liter of air, or higher, poses a significant risk of developing lung cancer;

WHEREAS testing for radon is simple and inexpensive and elevated radon levels can be mitigated to reduce health risks;

WHEREAS the U.S. Surgeon General, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the NC Department of Health and Human Services, the North Carolina Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control, and Forsyth County's Department of Public Health and Office of Environmental Assistance and Protection support efforts to encourage homeowners to test their homes for radon, and to take appropriate actions to effectively lower elevated levels of radon; and

WHEREAS many residents in Forsyth County may not know about radon, yet need to know, for the safety and health of their families and a proclamation of National Radon Action Month is an opportunity to improve public awareness of radon and the available measures to reduce exposure to radon;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes the month of January 2020 as National Radon Action Month in Forsyth County, North Carolina;

Adopted this 16th day of January, 2020.