

Proclamation

Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California

Adopted June 2, 2015

Elder Abuse Awareness Month

June 2015

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that as of July 1, 2013, approximately 12.2% of the population in Alameda County, or over 192,500 county residents, were 65 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, although the elder population is the largest growing segment in the country, elder abuse is one of the most under-reported crimes in the United States where it is estimated that only one in fourteen cases of elder abuse comes to the attention of Adult Protective Services and/or law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, elder financial abuse and neglect can negatively impact an elder's health, life and financial resources and can result in the loss of the elder's independence, home, life savings, and/or life; and

WHEREAS, victims of elder abuse include both men and women of diverse educational, socio-economic or ethnic backgrounds who have been victimized by strangers and/or by persons known to the elder who may occupy a position of trust including family members, neighbors, friends and others with whom the elder interacts; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's office, its Elder Protection Unit and its Victim Witness Division and the Alameda County Social Services Agency and its Adult Protective Services Unit provide a network of services to elders who are in danger of becoming, or who have become, victims of abuse, and hold community workshops to promote crime prevention resources and whose personnel include dedicated attorneys, advocates, inspectors and caseworkers should an elder be the victim of a crime; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office in collaboration with the Alameda County Social Services Agency - Adult Protective Services work with law enforcement and other professionals who assist elders by organizing local trainings to strengthen collective knowledge of elder abuse and neglect, improve communication, and enhance elder abuse investigations and case review among agencies that serve elders; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County recognizes that both the awareness of elder abuse and neglect as well as reporting instances of suspected elder abuse and neglect will help keep our elders and community safer;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors proclaims *June 2015 as "Elder Abuse Awareness Month"* in recognition that elders are valuable members of society who have a right to live safely and securely in the community.