

Elder Abuse Awareness Month

June 2013

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that in 2012, approximately 11.5% of the population in Alameda County, or over 178,000 county residents, are 65 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, the elder population is the largest growing segment in the country, however, 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 authorities; 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 that may occupy a position of trust including family members, neighbors, friends and others with whom the elder interacts with; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's office, its Elder Protection Unit and its Victim Witness Division provides a network of services to elders who are in danger of becoming, or who have become, victims of abuse including workshops to promote crime prevention resources and also a dedicated unit of attorneys, advocates and inspectors should an elder be the victim of a crime; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office also collaborates with law enforcement and other professionals who work with elders in order to strengthen collective knowledge of elder abuse and neglect, improve communication, and enhance elder abuse investigations and case review among agencies that serve elders through organizing local trainings and partnerships; 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, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors proclaims **June 2013 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.

KEITH CARSON, President
Supervisor, Fifth District

June 11, 2013

SCOTT HAGGERTY, Vice President
Supervisor, First District

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Supervisor, Second District

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