

CITY OF OAKLAND
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CITY OF OAKLAND

TO: Honorable Council President Kaplan and
Honorable Members of City Council

FROM: Sheng Thao
Councilmember, District 4

SUBJECT: Resolution to Proclaim the Month of June 2020 Elder Abuse Awareness Month

DATE: June 30, 2020

Dear Councilmembers and Members of the Public,

In today's world in which we face numerous challenges including a global pandemic, elder abuse continues to be very real. With the needed shelter-in-place orders to reduce the spread of COVID-19--particularly to our vulnerable population which includes seniors--elders are having to stay in living situations in which they may be physically, emotionally and/or financially abused. In addition, fraudsters who prey upon those who are financially vulnerable are using this very chaotic time to morph existing frauds and create new frauds to take the hard-earned money and property of seniors and others.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office not only investigates and prosecutes cases of elder abuse and financial exploitation, but also assists seniors with locating community resources. Reports of suspected elder abuse can also be made to local law enforcement or to the Alameda County Adult Protective Services (APS) Agency. The latter will also work to locate resources for elders who are at risk of becoming, or who have become, victims of elder abuse or financial exploitation. If a senior is in a skilled nursing facility, reports can be made with Ombudsman Services of Alameda, Contra Costa & Solano Counties.

The issuance of proclamations by the cities within Alameda County and by the county Board of Supervisors is important for several reasons. First, the proclamations remind the community of the importance of elder abuse awareness by shining a bright light on this issue. After all, elder abuse and financial exploitation are yet another type of pandemic that must end. Secondly, for elder abuse to stop, it needs to be reported and interventions taken. Abuse of any kind seldom stops on its own. In addition, the issuance of this proclamation by the City of Oakland is particularly significant because Oakland has the largest senior population of any city within Alameda County.

For these reasons, I ask for your support of this resolution proclaiming "June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month" in Oakland, reaffirming our commitment to, and recognition of, elders being valuable members of our city and having the right to live safely and securely in our community.

Respectfully,



Sheng Thao,
Councilmember, District 4