

# Elder Abuse Awareness Month

*June 2014*

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that in 2013, approximately 11.8% of the population in Alameda County, or over 186,000 county residents, are 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 which network includes holding 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, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors proclaims **June 2014 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.

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**KEITH CARSON, President**  
Supervisor, Fifth District

June \_\_\_\_, 2014

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**SCOTT HAGGERTY, Vice President**  
Supervisor, First District

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**RICHARD VALLE**  
Supervisor, Second District

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**WILMA CHAN**  
Supervisor, Third District

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**NATE MILEY**  
Supervisor, Fourth District