

June 06, 2023

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN**

**Proclaim June 2023 as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month, and June 15, 2023 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

Millions of older and dependent adults become victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation every year. These victims are our parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, neighbors, and other loved ones, and they experience horrific abuse, such as mental suffering, physical and sexual abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, isolation and financial exploitation. Last year Los Angeles County Adult Protective Services received and responded to over 54,000 referrals of elder and dependent adult abuse, and the numbers are continuing to increase annually.

As we emerge from the pandemic, it is becoming safer to reconnect and congregate with our elderly loved ones, who are among those most vulnerable to COVID-19. As such, to prevent elder and dependent adult abuse, community awareness and engagement are vital. The pandemic reinforced the importance of recognizing elderly and dependent adult abuse, with the likelihood of increased isolation, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. In response, LA County Aging and Disabilities / Adult Protective Services will be making significant efforts throughout the month of June 2023 to promote World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), including the following:

- Outreach about WEAAD and APS services to Area Agency on Aging providers; 88 cities and their respective mayors; banking, law enforcement agencies, America's Job Center of California (AJCC), MOU and contracted partners; Community and Senior centers and the

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- Participation in WEAAD-oriented and -related events, such as the Bet Tzedek 4th Annual WEAAD Conference (June 1st), NAPSA WEAAD Global Summit (June 13th), and WEAAD Virtual Workshop (June 15th).
- APS WEAAD Campaign Outreach event at the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration.
- APS WEEAD campaign outreach events all over Los Angeles County and the
- LAX pylons lit up in purple to celebrate WEAAD.

The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) have declared June 15, 2023, as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, recognizing the significance of elder and dependent abuse as a public health and human rights issue. We must continue to work to ensure that our elderly and dependent adults have the opportunity to age with dignity and safety.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Proclaim June 2023 as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month throughout Los Angeles County.
- 2) Proclaim June 15, 2023, as Elder Abuse Awareness Day throughout Los Angeles County.
- 3) Direct the Aging and Disabilities Department to provide outreach and educational material to all County departments about prevention, reporting, and elimination of elder and dependent adult abuse in the County of Los Angeles, with the goal of educating the public

to ensure that our elderly residents and dependent adults maintain a safe quality of life with dignity, respect, and safety.

- 4) Direct Aging and Disabilities to share elder and dependent adult abuse information with all county departments so they can share with the clients they serve.

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