

Date: June 4, 2018

To: Mayor Chelminiak and City Councilmembers

From: Patrick Foran, Director, 452-5377  
Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director, 452-7681  
*Parks and Community Services*

Subject: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation

To bring attention to misconduct perpetrated against older adults, groups around the world are proclaiming June 15, 2018 as the thirteenth Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This day is set aside in support of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA). Due to the timing of this international recognition and the Council meeting schedule, we are choosing this evening to recognize the importance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by presenting this proclamation.

The main goal of this proclamation is to increase Bellevue society's ability, in accord with international collaboration, to recognize and respond to the mistreatment of older adults in whatever settings it occurs, so that each individual can achieve an optimal quality of life in keeping with his or her cultural values and traditions.

"Elder abuse" describes a range of offenses. The signs of abuse are sometimes hard to distinguish. In most cases, elder abuse is perpetrated by a known, trusted person, usually a family member. Neglect and self-neglect are the most common types of abuse, although emotional abuse and financial exploitation are common, too. Startling examples can be found all around us, including cases in Bellevue.

As community members, family, and friends, we all need to be vigilant. To identify mistreatment, experts recommend looking for clues like unexplained physical injuries or repeated accidents. Changes in behavior such as crying, isolation, deteriorating health, and hygiene sometimes point to mistreatment. Financial troubles that appear out of the blue can send up red flags signaling possible exploitation. Dilapidated homes with rodent infestations may indicate neglect or self-neglect.

If you suspect an older or disabled adult is being abused, neglected, or exploited, immediately call the State protective service hotline at 1-866-END-HARM (1-866-363-4276). Police also recommend calling 911 to request that the Police perform a "Welfare Check".

Also, we invite Council, staff, volunteers, and all members of the community to join us in raising awareness and educating our Bellevue residents about Elder Abuse.

**Attachment:**  
Proclamation