



DATE: June 17, 2019

TO: Mayor Chelminiak and City Councilmembers

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Park & 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, 2019 as the fourteenth Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This day is set aside in support of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA).

The primary goal of this proclamation is to increase the ability of the Bellevue community to recognize and respond to the mistreatment of older adults wherever and whenever 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, often a family member. Neglect and self-neglect are the most common types of abuse, although emotional abuse and financial exploitation are also common.

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, and 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 also 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.”

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