



# City of Berkeley Proclamation

## DECLARING ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

- 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,** over a year after the COVID-19 pandemic became a concern in the United States, it continues to impact everyone, by making fragile living situations more stressful, thereby putting elders more at risk for their physical safety and well-being, as well as giving those who commit scams an opportunity to prey upon the concerns and fears of vulnerable members of society in order to obtain their money and property; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alameda County Social Services Agency – Adult Protective Services and Ombudsman Services of Alameda, Contra Costa & Solano Counties, respond to reports from individuals, concerned citizens, social service, health providers, and law enforcement representatives about elders who may be physically or financially abused, neglected or exploited; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, its Elder Protection Unit and its Victim Witness Division, in collaboration with the Alameda County Social Services Agency – Adult Protective Services and the Ombudsman Services of Alameda, Contra Costa & Solano Counties provide a network of services to elders who are in danger of becoming, or who have become, victims of abuse, and work with the Berkeley Police Department and with other professionals who assist elders by organizing local trainings to strengthen collective knowledge, improve communication, and enhance elder abuse investigations and case review among agencies that serve elders as well as prosecute cases of elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Berkeley Senior Centers provide a comprehensive array of services, as well as social and recreational programs to meet the needs of the elder population, thereby enhancing their quality of life and assisting them to remain active, healthy, safer and independent; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Berkeley recognizes that both the awareness of elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation as well as reporting instances of suspected elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation will help keep our elders and community safer.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Jesse Arreguin, Mayor of the City of Berkeley, do hereby proclaim June 2021 as**

## ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Berkeley, in recognition of elders being valuable members of our city and having the right to live safely and securely in our community.

Jesse Arreguin  
Mayor

May 25, 2021