

County of Monterey

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 24-147

Adopt a resolution proclaiming the Month, June 2024 as **Elder Justice and Vulnerable Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month** in Monterey County)
recognizing the United Nations' World Elder Abuse Awareness Day theme of)
"Ethical, Legal, and Cultural Factors in Considering Guardianship".....

WHEREAS, elder abuse, also known as elder malfeasance, maltreatment or mistreatment, senior abuse, the abuse of a dependent, vulnerable adult, elder neglect, geriatric abuse, geriatric maltreatment and/or mistreatment are intentional or negligent acts premediated by a caregiver or a trusted person; and

WHEREAS, other common themes of elder abuse, notably in this nation, include the systemic drivers of health inequities, racism, ageism, ableism, classism, sexism, and homophobia, where they are so uniquely manifested based upon history, culture, economic strength and societal perceptions of older people have been and are unfortunately embedded in laws and policies which shape under allocated resources; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse has become a public health, human rights, and social justice issue as the age distribution in the United States has greatly shifted since 2022. In response to the growing concerns of adult abuse, the Elder Justice Act of 2010 was enacted to address Abuse, Neglect, and the Exploitation of aged adults, its reauthorization in 2020, included the Safety and Security of Vulnerable Dependent Adults, and in 2024 elder abuse remains an international crisis, the public's awareness of the education of elder abuse should be raised; and

WHEREAS, the Elder Justice Reauthorization and Modernization Act of 2023, directly appropriated \$4.5 billion through the year 2027, responding to three (3) additional issues: addressing medical-legal needs, responding to social isolation and strengthening the long-term care workforce; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration of ombudsmen advocacy, social services, financial institutions, legal firms, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned administrative entities are not enough to stop elder abuse. It's the cooperation of all of us working together, as we age together, to demand a global, multifaceted response, one which focuses on protecting the rights of older persons and dependent adults. Laws and policies that shape available resources should be revisited, recognizing equitable access; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Decade of Healthy Aging, the World Health Organization and its partners are developing and will implement a global multi-partner strategy by 2030 addressing abuse of older people by mapping global evidence of abuse and identifying the reasons for abusive behavior. Awareness of elder abuse should be brought to the forefront, as an investment in our aged and vulnerable communities, while providing sustainable and accountable resources, leads to healthy aging; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the County and all its residents thereof, hereby joins the **Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council** in recognizing the month of June, 2024 as **Elder Justice and Vulnerable Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month**.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 4th day of June 2024

Chair Supervisor Glenn Church

Vice Chair Supervisor Chris Lopez

Supervisor Wendy Root Askew

Supervisor Luis Alejo

Supervisor Mary L. Adams

