

# PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** Seattle is home to more than 126,000 residents age 60 or older who enrich and strengthen our community by serving as leaders, mentors, volunteers, and vital participating members of our communities, and deserve to be treated with respect and dignity<sup>1</sup>; and
- WHEREAS,** Seattle is an age-friendly community that supports respect and social inclusion of older adults and community support and health services that meet their needs; and
- WHEREAS,** an estimated one in ten adults age 60 or older have experienced physical, psychological, verbal, or sexual abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect<sup>2</sup>; and
- WHEREAS,** the prevalence of elder abuse is even higher among older individuals who have disabilities and those who live with memory loss; and
- WHEREAS,** throughout the United States, older people lose more than \$36.5 billion annually due to elder financial abuse and exploitation, the most commonly reported form of abuse<sup>3</sup>; and
- WHEREAS,** older people who are mistreated are often abused, neglected and/or exploited by someone they trust—most commonly men and women who are family members, friends, and neighbors; and
- WHEREAS,** elder abuse is recognized as a public health and human rights issue that is significantly under-reported but also growing in numbers, due to an increasingly older population; and
- WHEREAS,** ageism and social isolation contribute to the incidence of elder abuse, and these can be combatted by promoting social connections, independence, self-sufficiency, respect, and inclusion; and
- WHEREAS,** socioeconomic and health disparities experienced by racial and ethnic minorities undermine accessibility and effective utilization of health and human services, and ongoing research is needed to develop culturally appropriate and accessible programs for elders of color who are vulnerable to later lifer abuse, and whose needs may be more likely to be ignored; and

<sup>1</sup> [https://datausa.io/profile/geo/seattle-wa/#category\\_age](https://datausa.io/profile/geo/seattle-wa/#category_age)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncoa.org/public-policy-action/elder-justice/elder-abuse-facts/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.truelinkfinancial.com/research>

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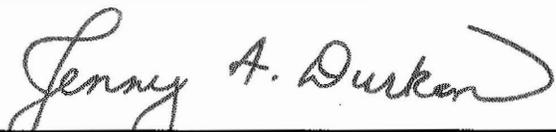
**WHEREAS,** Seattle Human Services Department works with Seattle Fire Department and Seattle Police Department responders, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Adult Protective Services, and community partners to raise awareness, increase reporting, and provide case management and advocacy services countywide to survivors of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation; and

**WHEREAS,** June 15, 2018 marks the 13<sup>th</sup> annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, which promotes a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older adults;

*NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR OF SEATTLE AND SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL DO PROCLAIM JUNE 15, 2018 AS*

## **Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Seattle**

We encourage every resident of Seattle and every person who serves the public to learn the signs of abuse, recognize the importance of taking action, and know where to turn for help. The Washington State Elder Abuse Hotline number is 1-866-ENDHARM.



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Mayor Jenny A. Durkan



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Council President Bruce Harrell



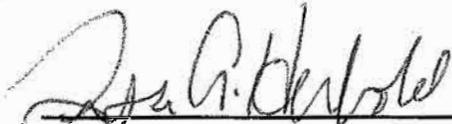
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Councilmember Sally Bagshaw



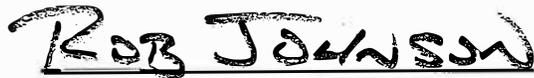
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Councilmember M. Lorena Gonzalez



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Councilmember Lisa Herbold



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Councilmember Rob Johnson



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Councilmember Debora Juarez



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Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



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Councilmember Mike O'Brien



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Councilmember Kshama Sawant