

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that nearly 18% of the population in Humboldt County, or approximately 24,000 county residents, are 65 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, throughout the United States, elder abuse is widespread and significantly unrecognized, underreported and under prosecuted; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt County Adult Protective Services (APS) receives an average of 50 reports of elder and vulnerable adult abuse and neglect per month; and

WHEREAS, elders deserve respect and gratitude for their life-long contributions and the roles they play in their families and communities, including the preservation of customs, traditions and history; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse and neglect negatively impact the elder's emotional and physical health and can result in isolation and loss of independence, resources and/or life; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt County APS is committed to responding to and investigating allegations of elder and vulnerable adult abuse, providing time-limited case management, emergency shelter/protection, and/or tangible resources, as well as participating in multidisciplinary personnel teams, when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, APS strives to prevent the abuse and neglect of all elders and vulnerable adults in Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt County APS works with the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement and other service professionals by providing a coordinated response, and by organizing local trainings to strengthen collective knowledge of abuse and neglect, improve communication and enhance elder abuse investigations and case review; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt County is committed to working with community partners and local Tribes on prevention and service coordination, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, by adapting emergency response procedures and conducting additional outreach to ensure the safety and well-being of our elders and vulnerable adults during a state of emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors proclaims **June 2021** as "**Elder Abuse Awareness Month**" in recognition that elders are valuable members of society who have the right to live safely and securely in our community.

DATED: June 8, 2021

Virginia Bass, Chair

