

MOTION

ARTS, PARKS, HEALTH, AGING & RIVER

In California, it has been reported that nearly 200,000 elder residents are victims of elder abuse every year. This problem will only intensify as the elder population is becoming exponentially larger with the Baby Boom generation. And as technology becomes more complex, the ways in which predators target elders is becoming harder to detect. Not only are elders abused physically and emotionally, but financial abuse, including estate planning and telemarketing fraud and home improvement scams, is becoming more prevalent.

The California Department of Justice's Bureau of Medical Fraud and Elder Abuse reports that seniors, along with their families and caretakers, should learn to identify potential or existing abuse, be prepared to correctly respond to it, and immediately report any signs of possible abuse. In addition, those who interact with the elder population in aspects of their life should learn the signs and steps to report.

Several City departments, including, but not limited to, the Department of Aging, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Housing and Community Investment Department interact with seniors on a daily basis. It is important that Council be made of aware of any existing policies that are in place to ensure that the reporting protocol is consistent. And, if no such policy is in place, those Departments should establish a policy on reporting signs of suspected elder abuse.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct all City departments that interact with the elder population, including, but not limited to, the Department of Aging, Department of Recreation and Parks, and Housing Community and Investment Department, to report on any existing policy to report elder abuse; and if no such policy exists, the relevant Departments should report on a proposed policy for reporting suspected elder abuse.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



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