

Legislation Text

File #: 220591, **Version:** 0

Recognizing June 15, 2022 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and further recognizing June 16, 2022, as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, The United Nations General Assembly designated June 15th as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. World Elder Abuse Day represents the one day in the year when the entire world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted to some of our older generations; and

WHEREAS, Virtually all countries expect to see substantial growth in the aging population, and occurrences of elder abuse can be expected to grow with it; and

WHEREAS, Elder abuse is a global social issue that affects the health and human rights of millions of members of the aging population around the world, and an issue which deserves the attention of the international and local Philadelphia community; and

WHEREAS, Elder abuse significantly undermines the health of the aging population despite being under-identified and under-reported; and

WHEREAS, Elder abuse can be defined as "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person"; and

WHEREAS, Each year an estimated five million older Americans are abused, neglected, or exploited and the direct medical costs of injuries and care related to elder abuse exceed \$5 billion a year in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Elder abuse can take various forms, such as physical, emotional, sexual, or financial exploitation. It can also be the result of intentional or unintentional neglect and underreporting despite being widespread. Increasing social support would make it easier for those who experience abuse to report it; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia is home to more than 220,000 people over the age of 65, making up 14% of our City's population. Of those older Philadelphians, 47,969-18%--live at or below the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia has the highest poverty rate among residents 60 among the nation's ten largest cities. About one in ten older Philadelphians live in deep poverty, which is defined as annual income of about \$6,000 or less for a household of one; and

WHEREAS, The City's increasing senior poverty numbers echo national trends, which continue to show rising numbers of people ages 65 and above living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, Elder Abuse Awareness Day will highlight a day in the year where Philadelphia voices its opposition to the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older Philadelphians; and

WHEREAS, The Elder Justice Center in the First Judicial District first opened in Philadelphia City Hall in the Fall of 2016. The resource center provides legal services, resources, and education to the aging population. Center staff also facilitate access to the courts by making available equipment to aid any hearing, vision and mobility challenges of seniors who are navigating the court system; and

WHEREAS, The Elder Justice Center was a response to the many recommendations set forth in the 2014 Report (totaling 284 pages) of the Elder Law Task Force led by Supreme Court Justice Debra Todd and First Judicial District former President Judge and current Administrative Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, Co-Chair of the Elder Abuse and Neglect Committee of the Advisory Council on Elder Justice and Chair of the First Judicial District Elder Justice Committee comprised of Judges Advocates, Attorneys, and Judicial Staff that led to the creation of Pennsylvania's first Elder Justice Center; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby recognizes June 15, 2022 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and further recognizes June 16, 2022, as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in the City of Philadelphia; now, therefore, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the Elder Justice Center of the First Judicial District as evidence of the sincere admiration and respect of this legislative body.