

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, all people deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of age or ability; and

WHEREAS, thousands of older people in all neighborhoods—representing every ethnic, cultural, racial, economic, and religious community—in the greater Seattle area experience physical or emotional abuse, neglect and/or financial exploitation every year, along with one in ten people aged 60 and older living at home in the United States who experience some form of abuse every year; and

WHEREAS, ageism, ableism, social isolation, anxiety, fear, and physical and emotional harm weaken the fabric of our families and our communities and can lead to early death; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle collaborates with professionals from across disciplines, including the Seattle/King County Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team, comprising Seattle Human Services Department elder abuse case managers, law enforcement officers, and emergency services personnel; representatives from the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Adult Protective Services, the King County Sheriff's Office, and the Developmental Disabilities Administration; medical professionals (including geriatricians); financial managers; and others to improve the systemic response to elder abuse cases; and

WHEREAS, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15) was created in 2006 to raise awareness of abuse and neglect of older adults as a public health and human rights issue, increase detection, and encourage reporting of abuse; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle recognizes the importance of elder abuse awareness and education as vital for building One Seattle, our vision for an inclusive, thriving and innovative city for all residents and neighbors to proud of;

*THEREFORE, I HEREBY PROCLAIM JUNE 15, 2024 TO BE*

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

I call upon the people of Seattle to learn the signs that abuse may be occurring and know that confidential and professional help is available by calling 1-866-EndHarm (1-866-363-4276).



Mayor Bruce A. Harrell