



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Oct. 2017)

## Board Clerk Use Only

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| Meeting Date:    | 6/14/18    |
| Agenda Item #:   | R.5        |
| Est. Start Time: | 10:10 a.m. |
| Date Submitted:  | 6/7/18     |

**Agenda Title:** Proclaiming June 15, 2018 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Multnomah County

**Requested Date:**  
June 14, 2018

**Time Needed:**  
15 Minutes

**Department/Division:** Non-Departmental

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**Presenters:** Wendy Hillman (Director of Adult Protective Services), Rose Bak (Director of Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office), and invited guests.

## **General Information:**

### **1. What are you requesting from the Board?**

Adoption of the proclamation proclaiming June 15, 2018 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Multnomah County.

### **2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.**

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched on June 15, 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations (UN). WEAAD aims to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. In addition, WEAAD is held in support of the UN International Plan of Action acknowledging the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue. This observance serves as a call-to-action for individuals, organizations, and communities to raise awareness about elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The Board of Commissioners regularly acknowledges World Elder Abuse Awareness Day as a significant event in Multnomah County. This presentation serves as an opportunity to highlight efforts by the County and its partners to assist vulnerable seniors in the community. Previous proclamations have recognized the work of the Public Guardian program, the Gatekeeper Program, specialists trained in financial abuse, and prosecution efforts by the District Attorney and local law enforcement.

This year's proclamation highlights the addition (through the Fiscal Year 19 budget process) of an advocate that specializes in working with older adults who are victims of violence. This new position will be a member of the County's Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team, known as DVERT. The team works on complex domestic violence cases that have a high risk of ongoing, severe abuse or potentially lethal outcomes which require an immediate response. Prior to this new program offer, older adults who were victims of violence from family members and were not intimate partners (such as adult children, grandchildren, and siblings) lacked regular access to domestic violence services in the County system.

The new advocate position will address that gap by providing resources to help older victims with safety planning and other services to reduce the risk of injury and death from abuse. They will also work with partners to increase knowledge and competency in the domestic violence system on responses to non-intimate partners involving older adults, and work with Aging Services partners to increase domestic violence competency.

**3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).**

None.

**4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.**

N/A.

**5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.**

The Interagency Committee on Abuse Prevention (ICAP) convenes on a regular basis to address issues of elder abuse. The committee consists of representatives from Multnomah County, the Portland Police Bureau, the Multnomah Circuit Court, and the Gateway Center, as well as a multitude of community providers.

**Required Signature:**

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| <b>Elected Official/<br/>Department Director:</b> | <b>/s/</b> | <b>Date:</b> |  |
|---|------------|--------------|--|