

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



WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 135 was signed into law in July 2021, as part of the Budget Act of 2021, expanding the definition of who Adult Protective Services serves to include individuals aged 60 and older; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that nearly 26% of the population of Humboldt County is 60 years old or older; and

WHEREAS, throughout the U.S., elder abuse is widespread and significantly unrecognized, underreported and under prosecuted; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt County Adult Protective Services (APS) receives an average of 132 reports of elder and vulnerable adult abuse and neglect monthly; 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 the history of Humboldt County; and

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

WHEREAS, APS is committed to responding to and investigating allegations of elder and vulnerable adult abuse, regardless of the elder's education, socioeconomic standing, ethnic background or sexual orientation, and providing time-limited case management, emergency shelter and protection and/or tangible resources, as well as participating in multidisciplinary personnel teams, when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, APS works with the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement and other service providers by participating in a coordinated response and 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, including adapting emergency response procedures as needed and conducting additional outreach to ensure the safety and well-being of our elders and vulnerable adults.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors proclaims **June 2023** as "**Elder Abuse Awareness Month**" and recognizes that elders are valuable members of society who have the right to live safely and securely in our community.

DATED: June 6, 2023

Steve Madrone, Chair