



## IMPERIAL COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Imperial County Board of Supervisors Declare June 2021 as Elder and Dependent Abuse Awareness Month**

**June 16, 2021** – On Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at their regular board meeting, the Imperial County Board of Supervisors proclaimed June 2021 as Elder and Dependent Abuse Awareness Month. The Imperial County Public Administrator/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Imperial County Department of Social Services joined the Board of Supervisors for the proclamation. June 15<sup>th</sup> also serves as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Every year an estimated 5 million, or 1 in 10 older Americans, experience physical, mental, and financial elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased isolation for older and dependent adults, likely causing unreported instances of concerns from neighbors and others. Bringing awareness to this issue, community-wide prevention efforts, and supportive services can help keep older adults safe and health to help stop abuse before it happens.

“We cannot allow abuse against our most vulnerable go unnoticed,” stated Chairman of the Board, Michael W. Kelley, “It is my hope that together – families, caregivers, and all local agencies and organizations – we can provide the support to our older adults and allow them to stay healthy, safe, engaged, and independent.”

“As the Acting Public Administrator/Guardian/Conservator of the County of Imperial, I see firsthand what affects elder abuse has on our older adults,” added Sarah Enz. “Being able to bring awareness to our community on how to recognize elder abuse and what to do to report it, will assist us in protecting our most vulnerable population.

Veronica Rodriguez, Imperial County Department of Social Services Director, also added, “We invite our Imperial County community to be part of the global movement to take action, and educate and empower our community to be part of the solution to end elder abuse.”

To report concerns about older adults living in homes or apartments in the community, call the 24-hour Imperial County Adult Protective Services hotline at (760) 337-7878 or visit [www.ImperialCountySocialServices.org/adult-services](http://www.ImperialCountySocialServices.org/adult-services).

For concerns about residents of skilled nursing and residential care facilities, call the Imperial County Long-term Care Ombudsman at (442) 265-7032 or the 24-hour CRISIS line at (800) 231-4024. For more information about the Imperial County Area Agency on Aging and their services, call (800) 510-2020 or (442) 265-7000, or visit [www.AAA24.org](http://www.AAA24.org).

[Picture attached]

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