Item No. 2(b)

City of Bellevue
Parks & Community
Services Department

MEMORANDUM

Phone: 452-5377; 452-7681

Date: June 2, 2014

To: Mayor Balducci and City Councilmembers

From: Patrick Foran, Director, Parks & Community Services
Bophary (Bo) Du, Community Services Supervisor

Subject: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation

To bring attention to misconduct perpetrated against older adults, groups around the world are proclaiming June 15, 2014 as the ninth annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This day is set aside in support of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA). Due to the timing of this international recognition and the Council meeting schedule, we are choosing this evening to recognize the importance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by presenting this proclamation.

The main goal of INPEA is to increase society's ability, through international collaboration, to recognize and respond to the mistreatment of older adults in whatever settings it occurs, so that each individual can achieve an optimal quality of life in keeping with his or her cultural values and traditions.

"Elder abuse" describes a range of offenses. The signs of abuse are sometimes hard to distinguish. In most cases, elder abuse is perpetrated by a known, trusted person, usually a family member. Neglect and self-neglect are the most common types of abuse, although emotional abuse and financial exploitation are fairly common, too. Startling examples can be found all around us, including in Bellevue.

As community members, family, and friends, we all need to be vigilant. To identify mistreatment, experts recommend looking for clues like unexplained physical injuries or repeated accidents. Changes in behavior such as crying, isolation, deteriorating health, and hygiene sometimes point to mistreatment. Financial troubles that appear out of the blue can send up red flags signaling possible exploitation. Dilapidated homes with rodent infestations may indicate neglect or self-neglect.

If you suspect an older or disabled adult is being abused, neglected, or exploited, immediately call the State protective service hotline at 1-866-END-HARM (1-866-363-4276). Police also recommend calling 911 to request that the Police perform a "Welfare Check".

Also, we invite Council, staff, volunteers, and all members of the community to join us in raising awareness and educating our residents about Elder Abuse.

Attachment: Proclamation

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

PROCLAMATION

Whereas; World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was established in 2006 to encourage public awareness and action against elder abuse; and

Whereas; Bellevue's older adults are valued members of society and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they live safely and with dignity; and

Whereas; Abuse of older adults is a tragedy inflicted on a growing number of vulnerable, and crosses all socio-economic boundaries; and

Whereas; Combating abuse of older adults will help improve quality of life and will allow older adults to continue to live as independently as possible; and

Whereas; The efficiency of the qualified and dedicated personnel who staff public works departments is materially influenced by the peoples' attitude and understanding of the importance of the work they perform; and

Whereas; Bellevue's older adults should be treated with respect and dignity to enable them to continue to serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers and important and active members of this community;

Now, therefore, I, Claudia Balducci, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **Sunday, June 15, 2014**, as:

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

in Bellevue, and urge everyone to commit to building safer communities for our aging residents.

Claudia Balducci
Mayor