

## PROCLAMATION FOR WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY (WEAAD) - JUNE 15, 2015

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- WHEREAS, The District of Columbia is home for more than 75,000 individuals 65 years of age and older; and
- WHEREAS, It is estimated that every five seconds an elderly person is abused; and
- WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Police Department is the second most frequent source of referrals to DC Adult Protective Services; and in the last reporting year, officials at Adult Protective Services investigated over 69 cases of abuse, 174 cases of financial exploitation, and 106 cases of neglect; and
- WHEREAS, Network for Victim Recovery of DC provided assistance to 40 seniors seeking help through the Sexual Assault Crisis Response program; and
- WHEREAS, Legal Counsel for the Elderly helps DC seniors victimized by financial scams and predators, working directly with the courts to oversee and administer guardianships, and producing hundreds of wills, powers of attorney, other “end-of-life” legal documents; and
- WHEREAS, Twenty-two senior DC residents fleeing abuse found safe shelter from S.O.M.E.’s House for Abused & Neglected Elderly; and
- WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Police Department signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Adult Protective Services which has clarified and improved referral processes and procedures between the agencies for the benefit of senior residents throughout the District of Columbia; and
- WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Police Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the District’s Coordinated Training and Response for Older Victims to participate on the DC TROV multi-disciplinary team as a crucial partner in the effort to raise awareness, increase training, and assist the District’s senior residents in living free from abuse; and
- WHEREAS, The DC TROV leadership includes: The Metropolitan Police Department, Network for Victim Recovery of DC, Adult Protective Services, Legal Counsel for the Elderly, the US Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the DC Office on Aging, the DC Forensic Nurse Examiners Program, the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, the Domestic Violence Unit of the Superior Court, and the Long Term Care Ombudsmen; and
- WHEREAS, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched in 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse at the United Nations in support of the U.N. International Plan of Action acknowledging the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue; and
- WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Police Department joins its partners on the DC TROV team, the National Center on Elder Abuse, the Administration for Community Living, the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, and many other national and international agencies and organizations in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day; and
- WHEREAS, The District of Columbia’s older adults should be treated with dignity and respect in recognition of their significant contributions to the betterment of our community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, COMMANDER ROBERT ALDER, OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, do hereby join in proclaiming June 15, 2015, as WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY and lead the District of Columbia in its observance, and do confer this commemoration to all of our citizens.

Given This 15<sup>th</sup> Day of June Two Thousand and Fifteen