



## City of Rohnert Park PRESS RELEASE

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### **For Immediate Release**

## **Rohnert Park to Recognize June as World Elder Abuse Awareness Month**

**Rohnert Park, CA (June 2, 2023)** – June is World Elder Abuse Awareness Month. In recognition, Rohnert Park is promoting a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older adults.

“This month is especially important as seniors play a significant role in our community. It is our collective mission to ensure their safety and well-being so they can have a peace of mind here in Rohnert Park,” Mayor Samantha Rodriguez said. “I invite our seniors to take advantage of all our supportive resources and opportunities.”

Nearly 14 percent of the city is made up of residents who are 65 and older. Due to physical and mental vulnerabilities, the elderly are more susceptible to abuse. Many elders are afraid or unable to tell police, friends or family about the violence.

There are many types of abuse that elderly people may experience. Physical abuse, abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, neglect, self-neglect and mental suffering are all leading contributors. Community is important to combat most abusive behaviors. Building friendships and being active are great tools for the safety of elderly individuals. The city has created programs to address the needs of the senior community.

Rohnert Park seniors are encouraged to use the city's favored asset—the Senior Center. The Senior Center (**6800 Hunter Drive**) offers daily activities, special events, services and delicious meals. The Senior Center's welcoming atmosphere makes it the perfect place for seniors to read, solve puzzles or chat with friends. Residents can learn more about the **Senior Center** by calling 707-585-6780.

Additionally, AgeWell Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is a Medicare and Medi-Cal funded program in Rohnert Park (**5789 State Farm Drive**). AgeWell PACE serves eligible senior residents in Sonoma and Marin counties. AgeWell PACE's interdisciplinary team offers comprehensive and coordinated services that support older adults, and their caregivers, to age safely at home. Some of the services include on-site primary medical care, PT and OT

therapy, home health assistance, transportation and social activities at the day center. You can learn more about AgeWell PACE on their [website](#).

If someone is suspected of being a victim of elder abuse, contact Sonoma County Adult Protective Services at 707-565-5940 or Public Safety at 707-584-2600.

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