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Maggie Fleming
District Attorney

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The Honorable Kelly Neel
Superior Court of Humboldt County
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Judge Neel:

Please find below my responses to the Grand Jury report, "Silver Tsunami Warning: Safeguarding Our Seniors":

F1. Reporting elder abuse is needlessly difficult, which results in underreporting. **(R1, R2)**

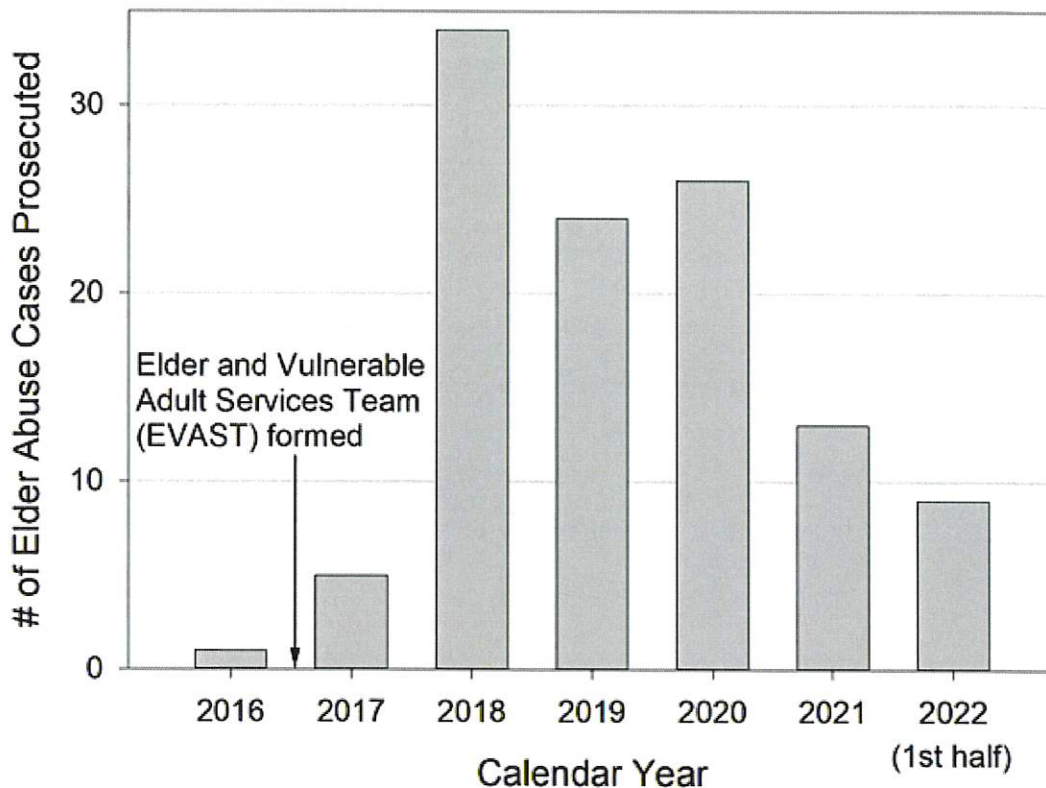
The Humboldt County District Attorney's Office agrees with this finding, which provided one of our motivations for creating the Elder and Vulnerable Adult Services Team (EVASt). EVASt has greatly facilitated the process of reporting elder abuse; we will continue to work to improve the reporting system.

F2. We can better protect seniors by making it as easy as possible for the public at large, and seniors specifically, to understand what elder abuse is and how to report it. **(R1, R2)**

The Humboldt County District Attorney's Office agrees. To address this issue, we have run a series of Public Service Announcements in partnership with Area 1 Agency on Aging to educate the public on types of elder abuse that occur and how to report it.

F4. The Elder and Vulnerable Adult Services Team (EVASt), funded with Measure Z dollars, has significantly improved the prosecution and conviction rates for elder abuse cases. **(R3)**

We agree. The graph below documents the increase in filing and prosecution of cases following the formation of EVAST beginning in 2017.



- R1. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends all law enforcement agencies add a prominent elder abuse reporting link and phone number to APS and other appropriate agencies on their websites by December 31, 2022. **(F1, F2)**

The Humboldt County District Attorney’s Office website currently provides information on Elder Abuse, including a link and phone number to report suspected abuse.

- R2. The Humboldt County Grand Jury recommends APS and the District Attorney (DA) develop a multi-faceted marketing approach to educate seniors and the public in general about elder abuse and make the process of reporting easier. The plan should be developed by December 31, 2022 and fully implemented by July 1, 2023. **(F1, F2, F3)**

As noted above, the Humboldt County District Attorney’s Office has run a series of radio public service announcements that provide information on elder abuse. We have also communicated with one local financial institution about publicizing information on financial elder abuse. We will follow this recommendation by expanding our efforts to develop a multi-faceted approach to sharing information on elder abuse with the public.

R3. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends the DA and APS continue their annual joint application for Measure Z funds for EVAST. **(F4)**

The Humboldt County District Attorney's Office will continue to collaborate with APS to pursue Measure Z funding needed to support EVAST.

Sincerely,



Maggie Fleming
Humboldt County District Attorney