

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUNE 14th IS ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Legislator Steve Stern welcomes Sergeant Nancie Byrne and Officer Terrence Buckley to Veterans & Seniors Committee



Pictured L-R: Legislator Tom Barraga, Legislator Tom Muratore, Legislator Sarah Anker, Sergeant Nancie Byrne, Commanding Officer of the Domestic Violence/Elder Abuse Bureau, Police Officer Terrence Buckley, Legislator Steve Stern, Legislator DuWayne Gregory, Legislator Kara Hahn, Legislator Al Krupski

HUNTINGTON, NY –Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16th LD, Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, welcomed Sergeant Nancie Byrne, Commanding Officer of the Domestic Violence/Elder Abuse Bureau of the Suffolk County Police Department and Police Officer Terrence Buckley to the Veterans and Seniors Committee to discuss the problem of Elder Abuse. June 14th is “**Elder Abuse Awareness Day**” in Suffolk County and nationwide to focus attention on this serious and often hidden problem. Elder Abuse takes many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual and financial exploitation and also includes harm

to vulnerable adults as a result of neglect as well as active and intentional abuse. These issues are often compounded because the abuse takes place at the hands of trusted family members, such as spouses and adult children or close friends, leading to shame and unwillingness to seek help. Many abuse cases are linked to domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse or mental illness. Abusers often seek to isolate their victims, refusing to allow visitors to see them or speak with them on the phone. Suffolk County Adult Protective Services works collaboratively with the Suffolk County Police Department to investigate allegations of abuse and to take action to protect seniors who may be victims. Vulnerable adults can also include younger adults, who may have developmental disabilities or mental health issues that render them incapable of caring for themselves.

If you suspect abuse, you can contact Adult Protective services at (631) 854-3195. After 4:30 and on weekends, emergency assistance is available at (631) 854-9100. The Suffolk County Domestic Violence/Elder Abuse Bureau can be contacted at (631) 854-7520.

“*Elder Abuse Awareness Day*’ helps focus attention on an issue that is often hidden and difficult to detect,” Legislator Stern said. “I thank Sergeant Byrne, Officer Buckley, the Suffolk County Domestic Violence/Elder Abuse Bureau and Adult Protective Services for their outstanding work in protecting our most vulnerable from abuse.”