

July, 17, 2012
BOS Agenda Item 12-0896

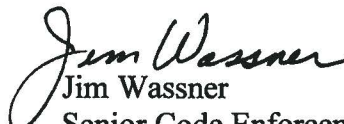
Caregiver Permit Program

Chairman of the Board, Board Members, fellow staff, and members of the public. My name is Jim Wassner and I have been with Building Services since 1990 and your Code Enforcement Officer for the past 15 years. In that capacity I sometimes work with Adult Protective Services staff on cases involving abuse by a caretaker. APS staff and I realized early on that when an abusive caretaker is illegally occupying a trailer or a structure on the property, we can often cease the predatory behavior by enforcing abatement of the violation which removes the violator from the property. While working these cases I have seen caregivers who take advantage of the senior they are being paid to help.

We have all heard of the grandparent who is fooled into sending money to a caller pretending to be a grandchild who needs money to get home from a foreign country. Imagine how more vulnerable that senior is when the person is in their home on a daily basis with access to their bank accounts, prescription medications, and even their personal belongings.

Many years ago as a General Contractor in the Sacramento Valley I participated in a program that did background checks on contractors and issued ID cards to those who passed. These cards could then be shown to prospective clients to show that we had passed the law enforcement agency's scrutiny. And we were just contractors there at the client's house for a relatively short time.

I believe that this program could reduce the total number of abuse complaints, as some of the potential abusers would not be willing to undergo the scrutiny of a background check.


Jim Wassner
Senior Code Enforcement Officer
Development Services
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Submitted by 

at Board Hearing of 7-17-12

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