



Precinct 3 County Commissioner Trish DeBerry
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Precinct 3 County Commissioner Trish DeBerry for Elder Abuse Prosecution

Elder Abuse Cases Backlogged at County

Precinct 3 Bexar County Commissioner Trish DeBerry takes action to protect our most vulnerable population - senior citizens - from abuse, neglect, and fraud.

Commissioner DeBerry recently met with Criminal District Attorney Joe Gonzales and County Manager David Smith about funding an elder abuse prosecutor position during the upcoming budget cycle.

“After meeting with the Elder Abuse Task Force, I learned there is a backlog of cases at Adult Protective Services that have not been prosecuted, and those cases have been pending too long. These elderly citizens deserve to see those who committed criminal acts against them prosecuted, punished, and if possible, restitution granted.” said DeBerry.

“There is no doubt, we need a dedicated prosecutor focusing only on elder abuse to get these cases resolved quickly and obtain justice for the victims. The County must invest in staffing and provide the Criminal District Attorney with the tools he needs to prosecute crimes against our seniors.”

After meeting with Commissioner DeBerry, DA Gonzales said he could use not only a special prosecutor focused on elder abuse and elder fraud cases, but also an investigator focused on the often times substantial paper trail associated with these types of crimes. Commissioner DeBerry has asked for both positions to be included in the FY 2021-2022 County Budget scheduled to be finalized this fall.

“Crimes against the elderly can be quite complex and require extensive review of medical and/or financial records. A team dedicated to successfully prosecuting those who prey on our seniors would help us to seek justice for this vulnerable population in a much more efficient manner. Commissioner DeBerry has worked tirelessly to obtain this funding and it will go a long way towards protecting our seniors and I personally applaud her efforts” Gonzales said.

Commissioner DeBerry has made elder care a top priority for her office and Precinct 3. The Commissioner has asked for additional County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to better meet needs in the aging population in affordable housing, healthcare, abuse prevention and prosecution.

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