

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kirk Uhler, Supervisor, District 4
Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer

DATE: March 24, 2009

SUBJECT: **PROCLAMATION**- Present a Proclamation recognizing April 2009 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

ACTION REQUESTED

Present a Proclamation recognizing April 2009 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Placer County Department of Health and Human Services has many community partners who participate actively in pursuing the goal of reducing child abuse and neglect for Placer County children. Chief among these is the Child Abuse Prevention Council. Together with other key partners, the council leads a collaborative effort to deliver a variety of services which assist and support Placer's families in creating safe homes and communities.

This year, the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Placer County celebrates their 20-year anniversary for leading efforts to raise awareness about child abuse, educate the community and help thousands of families resolve difficult life circumstances that threaten the safety and wellbeing of children. In addition, April 2009 is, "National Child Abuse Awareness Month" and Placer County desires to support the Child Abuse Prevention Council and allied community partners in raising awareness and providing education to the community regarding the most effective and useful methods to prevent child abuse.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal cost associated with this item.

**In the matter of a Proclamation
Declaring April 2009 as
"Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Placer County**

WHEREAS, one of our greatest resources is our children and our future will be determined by their innovative ideas, talents and leadership; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem that depends on the involvement of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, when children grow and develop in a safe, caring and nurturing home environment, they are more likely to succeed as adults and make a positive impact in our community; and

WHEREAS, child maltreatment occurs when parents or other caregivers find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources, and do not know how to cope or access those resources; and

WHEREAS, we can fulfill our duty to ensure that every child in our community has a safe and healthy upbringing by working together to prevent child abuse; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies have confirmed a direct link between child abuse and a significantly greater risk later in life for divorce, substance abuse, crime, suicide, heart disease, obesity and other crisis situations; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect in this Country is \$103.8 billion associated with child protection, law enforcement, health and mental health treatment, courts, and special education according to a 2007 study conducted by Prevent Child Abuse America; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure each family has the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Placer County, has partnered with government, social service, medical personnel, non-profit organizations, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community to develop and sustain effective prevention programs to ensure every child lives in a safe, healthy and nurturing home; and

WHEREAS, this year, 2009, marks the 20-year anniversary for the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Placer County and their leading efforts to raise awareness about child abuse, educate the community and help thousands of families resolve difficult life circumstances that threaten the safety and wellbeing of children.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN that the Placer County Board of Supervisors designates April 2009 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" and reaffirms its dedication to preventing child abuse and protecting our community's children. **BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that the Board calls upon all citizens to increase their participation in efforts to support families thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

F.C. "Rocky" Rockholm Supervisor, District 1
Chairman 2009

Robert M. Weygandt
Supervisor, District 2

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Supervisor, District 4

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