

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Adult System of Care and Medical Clinics

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services
Maureen F. Bauman, L.C.S.W., M.P.A, Director of Adult System of Care

DATE: October 6, 2015

SUBJECT: A Proclamation Declaring October, 2015 as "White Cane Safety Awareness Month"

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Adopt a Proclamation to recognize citizens who are blind or visually impaired by declaring October 2015, as "White Cane Safety Awareness Month" and October 15, 2015, as "White Cane Safety Awareness Day" in Placer County.

BACKGROUND:

On July of 1963 the National Federation of the Blind called upon the Governors of 50 states to proclaim October 15 each year as White Cane Safety Day. In 1964 this United States Congress established October 15 of each year to be White Cane Safety Day. California established a White Cane Law (Vehicle codes 21963 and 21964) to restrict the use of a white cane to only those who are blind or partially blind.

The white cane in our society has become one of the symbols of a blind person's ability to come and go on his/her own. White cane day is a day to honor the independent spirit of so many persons who are blind or visually impaired. Blind and visually impaired citizens make regular contributions to our community. In 1963 it was unusual to see a blind person on the street or working in an office or factory. Today independence is more the norm than the exception. People who are blind are able to go, to move to be and to compete with all others in society.

The means by which this is done is that simple tool, the white cane. This tool is truly a symbol of the will to be free and independent, something that all people want and need. White Cane Safety Day is a reminder of the goal of independence for all persons who are blind or visually impaired. It is a day to remember how far people with limited or no vision have come in our society.

We are requesting the Placer County Board of Supervisors proclaim the October 2015 as white cane safety awareness month and October 15, 2015 as "White Cane Safety Awareness Day in Placer County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This action has no fiscal impact to the County General Fund.

ATTACHMENT:

Proclamation – White Cane Safety Awareness and White Cane Safety Awareness Day.

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of a Proclamation declaring October 2015, as, "White Cane Safety Awareness Month" and October 15, 2015, as "White Cane Safety Awareness Day"

The following PROCLAMATION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held October 6, 2015.

WHEREAS, White Canes are designed to be used as mobility devices and can dramatically improve the independence of individuals who utilize them. A white cane also signals to the community as a whole that the individual is a person who is blind or otherwise visually impaired. Individuals using a white cane are able to achieve greater independence and gain self-confidence with the use of a white cane; and

WHEREAS, and California's White Cane Law (Vehicle codes 21963 and 21964) states that only a person who is "totally or partially blind" may carry a predominately white cane and that pedestrians using a white cane or guide dog have the right of way. Drivers of vehicles approaching the pedestrian must yield to or take "reasonably necessary precautions" to avoid injury to a blind person; and

WHEREAS, and White Cane Awareness Month is also a time of special significance for the visually impaired community. It celebrates a greater freedom or independence, and presents an opportunity for the sighted community with an opportunity to gain further understanding that individuals with visual impairments are capable of being integral members of the community. Just like their neighbors, Americans with disabilities expect to live full and productive lives.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT the Placer County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare October 2015 as "WHITE CANE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH" and October 15, 2015, as "WHITE CANE SAFETY AWARENESS DAY" in Placer County.

Kirk Uhler Supervisor, District 4
Chairperson 2015

Jack Duran, Supervisor District 1
Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2
Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3
Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5