

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kirk Uhler, Supervisor District 4

DATE: February 03, 2015

SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION – Approve and present a proclamation designating February 2015 as Grand Jury Awareness Month in Placer County.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve and present a proclamation designating February 2015 as Grand Jury Awareness Month in Placer County.

BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Every year in each of California's fifty-eight counties, nineteen ordinary citizens take an oath to voluntarily serve a term of one year as grand jurors. Grand juries have been in existence since the adoption of California's original Constitution in 1849-1850.

Grand juries are impaneled to act as an "arm of the court," to be the voice of the people and a conscience of the community. Grand juries conduct their investigations under the auspices of the Superior Court of California and have broad access to public officials, employees, records and information. Grand juries are charged with investigating and reporting on local governmental operations to assure that their responsibilities are being fulfilled legally, efficiently, honestly and in the best interest of the public. Grand juries serve as a watchdog authority and are well suited to the effective investigation of local governments because they are independent bodies, operationally separate from the entities and officials they investigate.

The grand jury's fact-finding efforts result in reports that contain specific recommendations aimed at identifying problems and offering ways to improve government operations and enhance responsiveness. In 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared February to be California Grand Jury Awareness Month. It is appropriate to recognize the efforts of those jurors, both past and present who have volunteered their time and service to the Placer County Grand Jury.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

**FEBRUARY 3, 2015 IN THE MATTER OF A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
FEBRUARY 2015 AS GRAND JURY AWARENESS MONTH IN PLACER
COUNTY**

WHEREAS, every year in each of California's fifty-eight counties, nineteen ordinary citizens take an oath to voluntarily serve a term of one year as grand jurors; and

WHEREAS, grand juries have been in existence since the adoption of California's original Constitution in 1849-1850; and

WHEREAS, grand juries are impaneled to act as an "arm of the court," to be the voice of the people and a conscience of the community; and

WHEREAS, grand juries conduct their investigations under the auspices of the Superior Court of California and have broad access to public officials, employees, records and information; and

WHEREAS, one of the most important functions of a grand jury is to review the operations of the officers, departments and agencies of local government; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Jury is charged with investigating and reporting on local governmental operations to assure that their responsibilities are being fulfilled legally, efficiently, honestly and in the best interest of the public. Grand juries serve as a watchdog authority and are well suited to the effective investigation of local governments because they are independent bodies, operationally separate from the entities and officials they investigate; and

WHEREAS, the grand jury's fact-finding efforts result in reports that contain specific recommendations aimed at identifying problems and offering ways to improve government operations and enhance responsiveness; and

WHEREAS, the hard work done by grand juries has a great effect on our communities and makes California a better place to live; and

WHEREAS, the reward of being a grand juror is the satisfaction received from working with fellow residents and community members to improve local government for all; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared February to be California Grand Jury Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the efforts of those jurors, both past and present who have volunteered their time and service to the Placer County Grand Jury.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Placer County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the month of February, 2015, as Placer County Grand Jury Awareness Month.

Kirk Uhler, Supervisor, District 4
Chairman 2015

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