

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Robert Weygandt, Supervisor District 2

DATE: September 12, 2006

SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION: Approve and present a Proclamation for the Placer County Peer Court recognizing September as National Youth court month in Placer County as requested by Supervisor Holmes.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve and present a Proclamation for the Placer County Peer Court recognizing September as National Youth court month in Placer County as requested by Supervisor Holmes.

BACKGROUND

The Placer County Peer Court originated in 1991 as a result of rising juvenile crime cases. A coalition of county department heads decided to initiate proactive programs to reverse the increasing trend involving low level juvenile infractions. As a result, the Special Multi-Administration and Resource Team, "S.M.A.R.T" was formed creating a committee of representatives from various departments including Probation, Welfare, Mental Health, Juvenile Court and the school systems to coordinate intervention plans to address infractions committed by juveniles. After visiting a model Teen Court system successfully operating in Humboldt County, Placer County decided to incorporate a similar program that would also include an informational component for juveniles to learn about the juvenile justice system and how it affected them. This program has been very successful in Placer County. To date, Peer Court has heard over 1000 cases involving over 1400 juveniles. Placer County Peer Court now hears all tobacco, skateboarding, and curfew citations. In addition, through a cooperative pilot program including Placer High School, the Peer Court hears truancy citation cases in a tribunal style court hearing. Legislation was passed and went into effect on January 1, 1995, that gives California State Department of Education approval for this curriculum to be taught in any California public school between grades seven and twelve. Nationally, Youth Court is recognized as a successful and useful resource to reduce juvenile crime.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

COUNTY OF
Placer
Board of Supervisors



COMMENDATION

**In the matter of a Proclamation recognizing
September as National Youth Court month
in Placer County.**

The following Proclamation was adopted by the Placer County Board of Supervisors this 12th day of September, 2006, all members present voting aye:

Bill Santucci, District One; Robert M. Weygandt, District Two; Jim Holmes, District 3; Edward "Ted" M. Gaines, District Four; and Bruce Kranz, District Five

WHEREAS, the 5th National Youth Court Month celebrates outstanding achievement of youth courts throughout the country. Whereby in 2005, 110,000 youth volunteered to adjudicate over 115,000 juveniles nationally; and

WHEREAS, 1,102 youth court programs in 49 states and the District of Columbia provide restorative justice for juvenile offenders, providing effective prevention, early intervention and education for all youth participants, and

WHEREAS, Placer County first instituted the Special Multi-Administration and Resource Team known as S.M.A.R.T. in 1991 and began their pilot program at Placer High School in 1992; and

WHEREAS, these youth court programs utilize several models, including diversionary courts, tribal and school based courts and they all include active youth participation in advocacy and decision making to meet the needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, youth courts address offenses which may otherwise go unaddressed until the offending behavior escalates, thereby youth courts redirect juvenile offenders behavior towards becoming contributing members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Placer County recognizes, through the Peer Court program, the importance of giving teenagers accurate and forthright information on their rights and responsibilities and emphasizes the opportunity for students to discuss with informed individuals and professionals the importance of good decisions regarding drug use, gangs, school attendance, parent rights and other pertinent topics that can affect their future should they choose to make unhealthy decisions regarding their behaviors.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT, the Placer County Board of Supervisors declares the month of September, 2006 as National Youth Court month in Placer County and congratulates the Peer Court program participants on their success with reducing juvenile crime.



Bill Santucci
Chairman