

**MEMORANDUM**  
OFFICE OF THE  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer, and HHS Department Director  
Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer

DATE: September 9, 2008

SUBJECT: **Proclamation** - Approve a Proclamation recognizing September 2008 as "Prostate Cancer Awareness Month" in Placer County.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve a Proclamation recognizing September 2008 as "Prostate Cancer Awareness Month" in Placer County.

**BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

Each year, the President of the United States, the United States Senate, and the Governors of most States issue Proclamations declaring September as Prostate Cancer Awareness month. Many counties and cities also recognize Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in September by issuing their own Proclamations.

Prostate cancer is the most diagnosed cancer in the USA today, second only to skin cancer. The American Cancer Society estimates that one in six men will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime, with men having a 28% higher rate of developing the disease than women have of developing breast cancer. Every 18 minutes 24/7, an American man dies from prostate cancer. The early stages of the disease usually show no symptoms, but early detection is the key to survival. The 5-year survival rate for prostate cancer is 100% if the disease is treated early. The percentage rate drastically drops to 32% if the cancer has metastasized.

In California, prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer among men in almost all race/ethnic groups and more men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in California than any other state. California also has the highest number of deaths from the disease. The expected new cases for 2008 are 22,600 with new deaths expected to be 2,970. The American Cancer Society recommends that every man should be offered an annual prostate examination beginning at age 50. Men who have several close relatives who were diagnosed with prostate cancer at an early age could begin their testing at age 40, and men who have a father, son, or brother who had prostate cancer before age 65, and African-Americans should begin their testing at age 45.

With this Proclamation declaring September 2008 to be Prostate Cancer Awareness month it will help save lives by raising awareness of the importance of screening and early detection. By educating others and ourselves about this disease, we can improve our ability to prevent, detect, treat, and ultimately cure prostate cancer.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**In the matter of a Proclamation  
recognizing September 2008 as  
"Prostate Cancer Awareness Month" in Placer County.**

**WHEREAS**, prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in America, exceeded only by skin cancer and the second most cause of death in men, exceeded only by lung cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Cancer Society estimates one in six men will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime and there will be 186,320 new cases of the disease in the USA in 2008, resulting in 28,660 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, in California, prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men in almost all race and ethnic groups and African-American men are 50% more likely to develop this disease than any other group of men; and

**WHEREAS**, 22,600 men in California will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year and each day more than eight California men will die from this disease; and

**WHEREAS**, prostate cancer is a leading cause of cancer deaths in men and little is known about this disease and there are usually no symptoms in the early stages; and

**WHEREAS**, the survival rate approaches 100% when prostate cancer is diagnosed and treated early, but drops to 32% when the disease spreads to the other parts of the body; and

**WHEREAS**, early detection is the key to survival and the American Cancer Society recommends that every man should be offered an annual prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test and digital rectal examination (DRE) determined by his age and risk factor; and

**WHEREAS**, men who have several close relatives who were diagnosed with prostate cancer at an early age could begin their testing at age 40; and

**WHEREAS**, men who have a father, son or brother who had prostate cancer before age 65 and African-Americans should begin their testing at age 45; and

**WHEREAS**, all other men who have a life expectancy of at least 10 years should begin their testing at age 50; and

**WHEREAS**, the Placer County Board of Supervisors joins communities across our nation to increase the awareness about the importance of early detection and treatment of this disease; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Placer County Board of Supervisors designates September 2008 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Placer County.

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Jim Holmes Supervisor, District 3  
Chairman 2008

Rocky Rockholm  
Supervisor, District 1

Robert M. Weygandt  
Supervisor, District 2

Kirk Uhler  
Supervisor, District 4

Bruce Kranz  
Supervisor, District 5