

**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 and Human Services  
Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer

DATE: September 18, 2007

SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION – Approve a Proclamation recognizing September 2007 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Placer County.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve a Proclamation declaring September 2007 to be Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

**BACKGROUND**

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

In the USA, men have a greater probability of developing prostate cancer in their lifetime than women have of developing breast cancer in their lifetime. One in eight women will develop breast cancer, whereas one in six men will develop prostate cancer. More than eight men die every day in California from prostate cancer.

In California, prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer among men in almost all race/ethnic groups. Early stages of prostate cancer usually show no symptoms, with early detection being the key to survival. The survival rate for prostate cancer is 100% when the disease is treated early. This rate drops drastically to 33% if the cancer has metastasized.

The American Cancer Society recommends that men should have their annual prostate cancer testing beginning at age 50. Men at high-risk, including African-American men and men with a strong family of one or more first-degree relatives (father/brother) diagnosed before age 65, should begin testing at age 45. Men at even higher risk, due to multiple first-degree relatives affected at an early age, could begin testing at age 40. About 75 percent of prostate cancers are diagnosed among men ages 65 and older.

With this Proclamation declaring September 2007 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

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**In the matter of a Proclamation recognizing September 2007  
as "Prostate Cancer Awareness Month" in Placer County.**

**WHEREAS**, The American Cancer Society estimates one in six men will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime and there will be 218,890 new cases of the disease in the USA in 2007, resulting in 27,050 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**, 18,865 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**, The survival rate approaches 100% when prostate cancer is diagnosed and treated early, but drops to 33% when the disease spreads to 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 the 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 all other men who have a life expectancy of at least 10 years should begin their testing at age 50; and

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

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT** the Placer County Board of Supervisors designates September 2007 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

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Bruce Kranz  
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2007 Chairman

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Supervisor, District 1

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Supervisor, District 2

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