



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING GOOD SAMARITAN SERVICES STAFF AND PARTNERS FOR THEIR OPERATION OF THE FREEDOM WARMING CENTERS DURING THE 2023 WINTER STORMS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WHEREAS, between December 2022 and March 2023, periods of heavy rainfall caused by multiple atmospheric rivers in Santa Barbara County resulted in floods and emergency evacuations that affected both housed and unhoused residents throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, with minimal notice, the dedicated staff and volunteers of Good Samaritan Services worked tirelessly to activate four countywide Freedom Warming Centers on 58 nights; and

WHEREAS, the Freedom Warming Centers provide temporary "pop-up" shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness during dangerously cold or damp weather conditions, serving as a gateway for accessing recovery, housing services, and other vital resources; and

WHEREAS, during the most severe storms in January, the Freedom Warming Centers operated continuously for over 72 hours, safeguarding homeless individuals from flooding; and

WHEREAS, a total of 496 unduplicated individuals were served, with an average of over 100 individuals countywide seeking refuge each night; and

WHEREAS, the records maintained by the Freedom Warming Centers indicate that this winter season witnessed an unprecedented activation of consecutive nights; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara acknowledges and appreciates the importance and value of the Freedom Warming Centers, recognizing the outstanding contributions of the Good Samaritan Shelter, partner agencies, and volunteers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors recognizes the tireless and heroic efforts of the Good Samaritan Shelter and its partners: Corner Church of the Nazarene; City of Santa Maria; Peace Lutheran Church; First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara; Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara; Trinity Episcopal Church; First United Methodist Church; Carpinteria Community Church; Carpinteria Veterans Memorial; and Romo & Associates, for serving the most vulnerable members of our community throughout the 2022-2023 winter season.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California on this 27th day of June 2023 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST: Mona Dreyer
Clerk of the Board

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Supervisor - 1st District
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