



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH 2007 AS MEDIATION MONTH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WHEREAS, conflict is a natural part of everyday life, and responses to conflict encompass a wide continuum of choices, including opportunities to explore constructive and creative resolutions. Conflict often leads to disharmony, expensive law enforcement, legal contentiousness, or violence. The consequences of crime include harm to victims and communities, overcrowded court calendars and prisons, and minimal restitution and rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to restore harmony, improve relations among citizens, neighborhoods, and families, many people are turning to mediation as a process that peacefully resolves controversy and disputes; and

WHEREAS, "Restorative Justice" interventions are mediated forums with offenders and victims of crime, offering offenders the opportunity to be directly accountable to those they harmed and make things as right as possible, thereby "restoring" and healing all parties and their communities, while reducing recidivism; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County contains a growing private sector of mediators, and a variety of non-profit mediation programs who are ready and able to act as neutral mediators whenever called upon by our citizens who have need for those services; and

WHEREAS, the following are engaged in providing mediation services, conflict resolution training, Restorative Justice services, and promote mediation as "appropriate dispute resolution" (ADR) in our communities: Conflict Solutions Center/Community Mediation of Santa Barbara County, the ADR Section of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association, the Appropriate Dispute Resolution Programs Committee of Santa Barbara Superior Court, the Court Administered Dispute Resolution Program (CADRe) of Santa Barbara Superior Court, the Family Custody Services of Superior Court, the City of Santa Barbara Rental Housing Mediation Task Force, the UCSB Housing Office, the UCSB Extension Certificate Program, and local private mediation practitioners in Santa Barbara County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors proclaims March 2007 as "Mediation Month" in Santa Barbara County, and encourages residents to engage in this form of peaceful conflict resolution whenever possible.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 20th day of March, 2007 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



[Signature]
Supervisor - 1st District

[Signature]
Supervisor - 2nd District

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Supervisor - 3rd District

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Supervisor - 4th District

[Signature]
Supervisor - 5th District

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board