

# Santa Barbara County of

# Santa Barbara

## RESOLUTION HONORING MARK SAATJIAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, Mark Saatjian earned his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School in 2005 and has faithfully served the residents of Santa Barbara County for nearly 20 years as a Deputy Public Defender, steadfastly upholding the Constitutional rights of those accused of crimes with professionalism, excellence, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Mark Saatjian has courageously stood up for, and stood beside, hundreds of clients, whether facing charges as serious as murder or as minor as drinking from an open container in public; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mark Saatjian played a critical role in monitoring jail conditions, communicating those conditions to decision-makers, advocating for the release of medically vulnerable individuals, and mobilizing Public Defender staff to litigate in pursuit of the humane treatment of incarcerated persons; and

WHEREAS, his mentorship of young and aspiring attorneys has helped shape the next generation of public defenders, and his positive influence on the Santa Barbara legal community will continue to be felt for years to come; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement, Mark Saatjian intends to continue serving the community, carrying forward the same dedication and commitment to justice and equity that has defined his distinguished career;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara does hereby acknowledge this Resolution of Commendation honoring Deputy Public Defender Mark Saatjian for nearly two decades of public service and extends its best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 7th day of April, 2026, by a unanimous vote of all members present.



*Maria Rodriguez*  
ATTEST: Clerk of the Board

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 1st District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 2nd District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 3rd District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 4th District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 5th District

