



# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

## RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2009 AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

**WHEREAS**, sexual assault affects everyone in our society, creates fear, is a threat to our communities, and diminishes society and the human spirit; and, for far too long sexual violence against and among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons has gone unrecognized; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a study conducted by the National Victim Center, 1.3 women age 18 in the U.S. are forcibly raped each minute, translating to 78 per hour, 1781 per day, or 683,000 per year; and

**WHEREAS**, a study of university students found that 42.4% of lesbian, gay, and bisexual students compared to 21.4% of heterosexual students indicated they had been forced to have sex against their will; and according to the First National Survey of Transgender Violence, 13.7% of 402 respondents were survivors of rape or attempted rape; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Barbara County strongly supports the dedicated efforts of the Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center to encourage every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts to raise awareness about sexual violence, including conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with crucial counseling and other support services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is meant to encourage public education and public discourse as a way to inform community members about issues of sexual violence ; and

**WHEREAS**, we encourage all individuals to challenge heterosexist myths that sustain sexual violence within LGBTQ communities and we encourage the Santa Barbara community to acknowledge the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender survivors of sexual assault, to make these stories heard

**WHEREAS**, the State of California recognizes April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month,

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND** that this Board of Supervisors proclaim April 2009 as **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH** and requests public support and assistance for the Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center as it continues to work toward a society where women, children, and men of all races, ethnicities, and sexual orientations can live in a community free from violence and exploitation.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 7th day of April, 2009, by unanimous vote of the members present.



ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
Clerk of the Board

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 1st District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 2nd District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 3rd District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 4th District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 5th District