

Santa Barbara County of

RESOLUTION NO. 26-44

Celebrating 100 Years of Service by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department

WHEREAS, established on April 5, 1926, formed initially as the Santa Barbara County Department of Forestry, with responsibilities that included rural fire and watershed protection, County Parks, Fish and Game, and lifeguard services, reflecting an early commitment to comprehensive public safety and stewardship of County resources; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, the organization formally changed its name from the Forestry Department to the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, marking its evolution into a modern, all-hazards emergency response agency serving the diverse needs of Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department protects life, property, and the environment to three cities and all unincorporated areas of the county, providing a comprehensive all-hazards emergency response that includes structure and wildland firefighting; medical emergencies and rescues; hazardous materials response; technical search and rescue; water rescue; and disaster response, supported by specialized resources such as bulldozers, helicopters, hand crews, Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS), and other advanced tools and technologies; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department advances community safety through its Fire Prevention Division, providing leadership in fire prevention, code enforcement, vegetation management and development review, inspections, investigations, and public education to reduce risk and enhance life safety; and

WHEREAS, through its Office of Emergency Management, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department leads countywide emergency planning, preparedness, response coordination, and disaster recovery efforts, strengthening resilience through close collaboration with local, state, federal, and community partners; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department serves as a contract county to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), providing fire protection within State Responsibility Areas and supporting coordinated statewide wildland fire protection efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department has been a leader in emergency medical services, including being among the first counties in California to deliver Advanced Life Support using Firefighter-Paramedics in 1974, and full Advanced Life Support deployment at all County fire engines and stations by July 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department has played a foundational role in the fire service profession, including serving as a founding member of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens in 1929 and as a founding participant in FIRESCOPE in 1972, helping shape cooperative fire protection and incident command systems used nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department successfully launched the Regional Fire Communications Center, modernizing emergency communications and strengthening regional coordination and response capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the success and longevity of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department are the result of the dedication, professionalism, and sacrifice of generations of firefighters, chiefs, professional staff, and community partners who have upheld the highest traditions of public service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara does hereby recognize, honor, and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, commending the Department for a century of exceptional service, leadership, and innovation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 10th day of March 2026, by unanimous vote of all members present.



Mona Niyasat
 ATTEST: Clerk of the Board

[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

