

# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2024  
AS DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH AND  
RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF MONIE DE WIT**

*WHEREAS, dyslexia is defined as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader and is most commonly caused by a difficulty in phonological processing (the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken language), which affects the ability of an individual to read, write, spell, and, often, the ability to learn a second language; and*

*WHEREAS, dyslexia is the most common learning difference, and is persistent and highly prevalent, affecting 80 to 90 percent of individuals with a learning difference and approximately 20 percent of the population as a whole; and*

*WHEREAS, when dyslexia is not identified, far too many students experience unnecessary struggles in school, which are often erroneously and unfairly attributed to an assumed lower intelligence level, leading to long-term consequences for dyslexic individuals including academic difficulties and poor self-esteem, as well as a wide range of negative outcomes for our community at large; and*

*WHEREAS, for two decades, Monie de Wit has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to supporting individuals with dyslexia and advocating for reform in reading instruction and improved literacy education, among other issues important to the dyslexic community; and*

*WHEREAS, Monie is both a dyslexic individual and the mother of a dyslexic son, bringing a unique and empathetic perspective to her advocacy work; and*

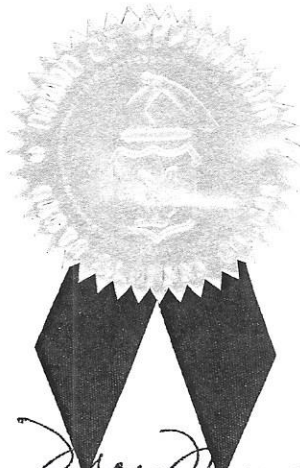
*WHEREAS, Monie utilizes her expertise in photography to support dyslexia awareness, photographing incarcerated youth struggling with reading and compiling a series of photographs entitled "1 in 5: The Face of Dyslexia," highlighting the talents and humanity of individuals with dyslexia; and*

*WHEREAS, Monie exemplifies her principle of "think globally, act locally" by working with local organizations such as the Dyslexia Awareness Resource Center and The Dyslexia Project, contributing positively to the local dyslexia community and the broader discourse on dyslexia in Santa Barbara County; and*

*WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara and its residents appreciate Monie de Wit for her initiative and passion in her advocacy of the dyslexic community.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors declares October 2024 as Dyslexia Awareness Month in Santa Barbara County and thanks Monie de Wit for her work.**

**PASSED and ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024 by a unanimous vote of all members present.**



ATTEND:

*Monie de Wit*  
Clerk of the Board

*Paul Williams*  
Supervisor - Santa Barbara

*Paul G. Gonyea*  
Supervisor - Santa Barbara

*Jean Bartmann*  
Supervisor - Santa Barbara

*Bob Nolan*  
Supervisor - Santa Barbara

*G. J. ...*  
Supervisor - Santa Barbara