

**IN THE MATTER OF HONORING CHIEF
PROBATION OFFICE SUSAN J. GIONFRIDDO
UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE COUNTY
OF SANTA BARBARA AND DEDICATING THE
SUSAN J. GIONFRIDDO JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER**

WHEREAS, Susan J. Gionfriddo was born in Glendale, California, to Dolores and John Jacobsen, attended local public schools and graduated from Rosemead High School as a California Scholastic Federation Seal Bearer with honors; Sue was the first on either side of her family to graduate from college, Sue having earned scholarships to attend the University of California, Santa Barbara, and having graduated with majors in both Spanish and Sociology; and

WHEREAS, Sue began her career with the Santa Barbara County Probation Department in 1968, working with Dependent and Delinquent minors at the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall; she quickly promoted to Deputy Probation Officer, a position she held for eight years before again being promoted to Supervising Deputy Probation Officer; although dedication to the profession and the families it serves was clearly evident early in her career, she truly blossomed and demonstrated her unique administrative skills while promoting through the ranks of Division Chief and Assistant Chief for eight years before being appointed Chief Probation Officer in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Sue has been an active supporter and participant in community and professional associations; she has served on the Boards of the Center for Law Related Education, the Tres Condados Girl Scout Council, the Santa Barbara Boys and Girls Club, as well as being the 1992/1993 Soroptimist International of Goleta “Woman of Distinction”; she was a Board member of the American Probation and Parole Association, President of the County Executive Association, and President of the Chief Probation Officers of California; and

WHEREAS, Sue’s vision and leadership was the inspiration and driving force in the progression toward, and recognition of, the Probation Department as being one of the premier and most innovative in the State; her strong support for collaboration with public and private agencies to fulfill the Department’s mission resulted in numerous grants to enhance services to both adults and juveniles, and she was instrumental in the development of a research partnership with the University of California, Santa Barbara, to document the effectiveness of Probation programs; under her administration, the Los Prietos Boys Camp was rescued from privatization and an 80% increase in Camp beds and a 156% increase in Juvenile Hall beds was realized, while at the same time, out-of-home placement of minors and California Youth Authority commitment rates were reduced to one of the lowest in the State; during her tenure she built a team of dedicated staff who are well prepared and committed to carry forward the vision and work that began under her leadership; and

WHEREAS, Sue was married to the love of her life, Al “The Catch” Gionfriddo, for over 30 years, whose support both professionally and personally was truly the “wind beneath her wings”; throughout her life, Sue has been actively involved in sports and recreational activities, softball and golf being particular favorites; in 1990, she won the Sandpiper Women’s Golf Club Championship, and will undoubtedly be working to reclaim that title, and many others, in her retirement; when she is not corralling her beloved Beagles Sandy and Bagger; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors wishes to recognize and honor Susan J. Gionfriddo upon her retirement for over 36 years of loyal, dedicated, and innovative service to the people of Santa Barbara County; Sue has not only brought recognition to her Department and the highest caliber of Probation services to the County of Santa Barbara, but has made a positive difference in the lives of her coworkers, clients and their families, and those less fortunate in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors does hereby commend Chief Gionfriddo upon her retirement from Santa Barbara County service and dedicates the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall in her honor; the facility shall hereafter be known as the Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 22nd day of March 2005, by unanimous vote of all members present.