

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

**RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL 2012 AS
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH
IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have identified sexual assault as a significant, costly and preventable health issue; and

WHEREAS, one in three women and one in six men will be victims of sexual violence at least once in their lifetimes, and sexual violence impacts women, children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government has declared April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence remains an intolerable violent crime with public health implications for every person; and

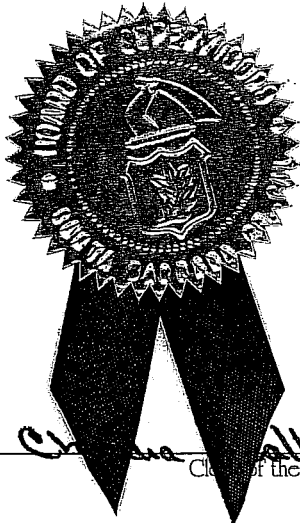
WHEREAS, during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center will conduct the Jeans for Justice Campaign, which encourages community members to wear jeans/denim on April 25, 2012 to raise awareness about the myth that a person's dress style invites sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the Jeans for Justice Campaign and Denim Day began in 1999 following an Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the survivor wore jeans. The justices said that since jeans are not easily removed without cooperation, and "impossible" to remove if someone is resisting, the act must have been consensual and therefore not a sexual assault. The decision did not recognize that coercion, threats and force are inherent in rape and survivors must not be the ones to bear the blame for this crime; and

WHEREAS, with leadership and dedication, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing the incidence of this crime in Santa Barbara County, preventing sexual violence through increased awareness and holding perpetrators who commit the crime responsible for their actions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors designates the month of April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Santa Barbara; and be it further resolved that the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors affirms its commitment to address and speak out against sexual violence by: supporting survivors, holding perpetrators responsible for committing sexual attacks, and challenging societal myths and behaviors that perpetrate sexual violence in our community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 17th day of April, 2012 by unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST: *Christina Gallon*
Clerk of the Board

S. D. C. C. L.
Supervisor - 1st District
Janet Wolf
Supervisor - 2nd District
Robert Fair
Supervisor - 3rd District
Jonie Gray
Supervisor - 4th District
St. Joseph
Supervisor - 5th District