



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION HONORING FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK SEPTEMBER 20 - 27, 2009

WHEREAS, it is estimated that nearly 15 percent of Santa Barbara County residents - over 64,922 people - are 60 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one-third of adults over the age of 60 and 50 percent of adults over the age of 80 will fall each year, with medical costs of each fall-related hospitalization estimated at \$35,000; and

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among people over the age of 60, and the leading cause of doctor visits, hospital admissions, and emergency room visits; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, 1,027 older adults in Santa Barbara County suffered injuries from a fall great enough to result in hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, falling, and the fear of falling, can lead to depression, isolation, diminished mobility, and loss of functional independence; and

WHEREAS, injuries from falls are a largely preventable community health problem; and

WHEREAS, the cause of falls is composed of multiple contributing factors including lack of strength in the lower extremities, the use of multiple medications, reduced vision, chronic health problems, and unsafe environments; and

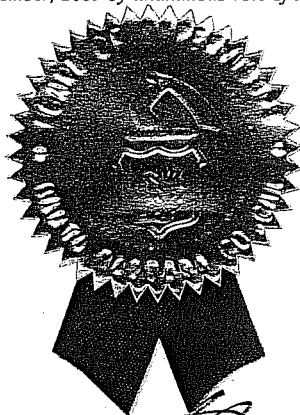
WHEREAS, concentrated efforts are being made in Santa Barbara County by the Adult and Aging Network's Fall Prevention Task Force to reduce falls and fall related injuries by using multi-faceted interventions; and

WHEREAS, at the state level, Fall Prevention Awareness Week, has passed the Senate and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, at the federal level the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 (S. 845) was passed in April. This bill calls for the expansion of public health programs, educational outreach, and research activities related to fall prevention; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim the week of September 20, 2009, as "FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK" in Santa Barbara County and call upon our citizens and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate activities that promote awareness of fall prevention.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 15th day of September, 2009 by unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board

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Supervisor - 1st District

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Supervisor - 2nd District

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Supervisor - 3rd District

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Supervisor - 4th District

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Supervisor - 5th District