



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

**RESOLUTION FOR COMMENDATION FOR
LAWANDA LYONS-PRUITT
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH, SEPTEMBER 2015**

WHEREAS, Lawanda's service with Santa Barbara County began in July 1979 with the Department of Social Services. She joined the Public Defender's Office in July 1984 as a criminal defense investigator and was promoted to her current position, Chief Investigator, in January 1995; the first African American female in the State of California to hold this position. Lawanda brings a tireless devotion to justice to her work and although she may not always prevail, she never allows herself or any of those working with her to feel defeated;

WHEREAS, as a long-time member of the NAACP and President of the Santa Maria/ Lompoc Branch since 2007, Lawanda has served our community by espousing and furthering their mission in the Tri-Counties. She is a member and Hospitality Chair of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, involved in almost every event and still finds time to provide dinners for the Good Samaritan Shelter residents twice a month, with staff members of the Public Defender's Office and members of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church;

WHEREAS, Lawanda is a founding member of the Defense Investigator Training Accreditation Academy, a state-wide organization dedicated to training, teaching, and mentoring public defender and criminal defense investigators. She was the organization's chairperson since its inception in 1998 and is now Chairperson emeritus, continuing her involvement in all aspects of the Academy's training program.

WHEREAS, this July marks Lawanda's 36th year of County service, and her last year of service since she will be retiring later this year, giving her time to devote to her two of her passions: the Los Angeles Lakers and Bingo; activities that may keep her from sainthood, but that endear her to us all;

WHEREAS, Lawanda has been and continues to be an exemplary County employee, mother, and co-worker demonstrating what someone growing up in the Deep South in the 60's and 70's can achieve with work, dedication, and devotion;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors commend Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt for her exceptional and continuous contributions to the work of Santa Barbara County by naming her as employee of the month for September 2015.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 8th day of September 2015 by the unanimous vote of the members present.



ATTEST:

Monica Puigato
Clerk of the Board

LLO Cell
Supervisor - 1st District
Gaut Wolf
Supervisor - 2nd District
William Van
Supervisor - 3rd District
Robt R. Baker
Supervisor - 4th District
St. J. J. J.
Supervisor - 5th District