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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM OCTOBER 2009 AS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, breast cancer, the most common cancer among women, was the 7th leading cause of death among women in Santa Barbara County in 2007, accounting for 46 deaths. One woman in eight will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime which translates to an estimated 40,000 women in the United States will lose their life to breast cancer in 2009; and

WHEREAS, October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, designed to educate women about the life-saving benefits of early detection of breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, death from breast cancer is largely preventable if found early. Mammography is the best available method to detect breast cancer in its earliest, most treatable stage. When breast cancer is diagnosed early, before it has spread beyond the breast, 98 out of every 100 women survive for five years or more. Breast cancer deaths in women age 50 and older can be reduced by 30 percent with annual screening mammograms; and

WHEREAS, in the past year, 8,672 Tri-County women received free breast cancer screening services through the Santa Barbara County Cancer Detection Program; and 1,146 Tri-County women, including 832 of the most at-risk group aged 50 + years, received education through the Santa Barbara County Cancer Detection Program; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the County Public Health Department was instrumental in identifying the need for a legislative "fix" to enable digital mammography screening to be reimbursed by Medi-Cal at the analog rate. As a result, the County's Legislative staff and Assemblymember Pedro Nava's office collaborated on drafting AB 359, which was passed unanimously by the California legislature and awaits the Governor's signature; and

WHEREAS, in support of SBC Public Health Department's breast, cervical and common cancers prevention efforts, a Bi-National Health Fair will be held at the Hope Church on October 10th in Santa Barbara, a Chumash Pow Wow in Santa Ynez on October 17th, and a special edition of Public Health's television show, "Healthy for Life/Una Vida Saludable" will air on public and government access channels in late October.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California that October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and encourages women age 40 or older to have mammograms at regular intervals.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this thirteenth day of October, 2009, by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

Supervisor - 1st District

Supervisor - 2nd District

Supervisor - 3rd District

Supervisor - 4th District

Supervisor - 5th District