

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2009 AS DRUG COURT MONTH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, individuals arrested for drug related crimes (excluding crimes of violence) are offered the choice of participation in drug court in lieu of jail time; and

WHEREAS, those who chose drug court must plead guilty to the crime, sign a waiver of the fourth amendment rights, and agree to participate in treatment for a minimum of 18 months; during that year, they move through five phases of treatment, each one less restrictive; and

WHEREAS, treatment decisions are made in collaboration with Superior Court, Probation, Mental Health, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, and several community based treatment providers; the Santa Barbara County Drug Court is reducing episodes of criminality, including arrests and jail days served by helping participants establish a clean and sober lifestyle and helping participants improve the quality of their lives; and

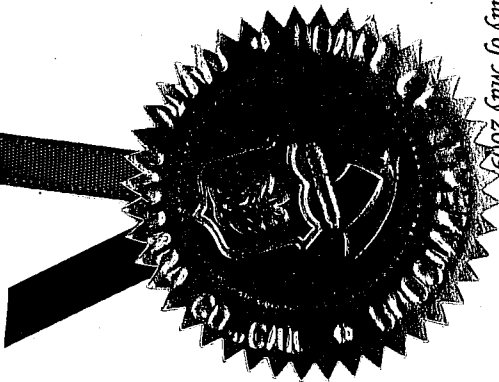
WHEREAS, graduation requirements are six months drug and alcohol free, attendance of 182 groups and 12-step or recovery based meetings, full time job or school or combination, and graduation review with the presiding judge and drug court staff; formal graduation ceremonies are held to honor those that complete treatment successfully; and

WHEREAS, 2009 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Miami-Dade Drug Court, the first in the nation; and for the past twenty years the drug courts have been restoring lives, reuniting families, and making communities safer; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County Drug Court was first implemented in 1997, during the past 11 years over 1000 participants have been served, and during the 07/08 fiscal year 66% of participants successfully completed the program, a 4% increase from the previous fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts work significantly improving substance-abuse treatment outcomes, substantially reducing crime, and producing greater cost benefits than other justice strategies.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Barbara, State of California, proclaim May 2009 as Drug Court Month here in Santa Barbara County. Passed and adopted this 12th day of May 2009.



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Supervisor - 1st District

Paul W. Hill
Supervisor - 2nd District

John A. Hill
Supervisor - 3rd District

Gene Hargis
Supervisor - 4th District

John Carter
Supervisor - 5th District

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Clerk of the Board