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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA "CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK" IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the lives of women, men, children, extended families and communities continue to be negatively and often severely impacted by crime and fear it generates; and

WHEREAS, the criminal justice system would fail to function without the cooperation of victims and witnesses who aid law enforcement in identifying and convicting felons and other perpetrators of crime; and

WHEREAS, a fair and balanced criminal justice system must ensure that the needs and rights of victims are not overlooked in the process of protecting the rights of the accused; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office, through its Victim Witness Assistance Program, offers information, support, referrals, and State Victim Compensation to victims of crime to mitigate their trauma; and

WHEREAS, victims and witnesses who have suffered loss and trauma deserve fair and sensitive treatment by representatives of the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to inform the public of the problems, needs, and rights of victims and witnesses, and of the range of services and assistance available to them and also acknowledge the efforts of concerned citizens, law makers and the criminal justice system to provide and continue to improve those services;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors proclaims April 13 – 19 as CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, and urges all residents to be part of the solution to reducing crime in our County.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 15th day of April, 2008 by a unanimous vote of all members present.

Supervisor - 1st District

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Supervisor - 2nd District

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Supervisor - 3rd District

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board
Supervisor - 5th District