

PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MAY 2013 AS

ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, 18.4% of San Mateo County children have been diagnosed with asthma, amounting to approximately 27,000 local young people aged 0-17 living with this chronic breathing condition, nearly double the number noted in 2003; and

WHEREAS, 10.4% of San Mateo County adults have been diagnosed with asthma, amounting to 59,000 adults in our community living with the disease, an increase of more than 75% from 2003; and

WHEREAS, asthma attacks cause people with asthma and their family members to miss thousands of days at work and school each year; and

WHEREAS, poor indoor and outdoor air quality are known to affect both the development of asthma and the severity of asthma symptoms; as well as differences in living conditions and access to health care contribute to racial/ethnic and economic disparities in the prevalence and severity of asthma; and

WHEREAS, disparities in asthma control are evident in differences in emergency department visits by San Mateo County residents, with African-Americans with asthma being 2.8 times more likely and Hispanics 2.1 times more likely than Caucasians with asthma to visit an emergency department for their asthma symptoms; and

WHEREAS, efforts by the San Mateo County Asthma Coalition, Tobacco Education Coalition, Family Health Services' Asthma Management Program and the Environmental Health Services' Housing Program have focused efforts on the importance of healthy housing in the community; and

WHEREAS, the establishment and enforcement of regulations to limit smoking and to require healthy conditions in rental housing, the development of programs to improve access to medical care, and activities to increase the knowledge of asthma and its prevention and management among childcare and healthcare professionals are having a positive impact on the health of people with asthma;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates May 2013 as Asthma Awareness Month, and the Board further commends those who are working to decrease the burden of asthma among the residents of the county and encourages others to join in this effort.

Dated: May 7, 2013

Supervisors:

Don Horsley, President

Dave Pine

Carole Groom

Warren Slocum

Adrienne J. Tissier

Attest: Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors