

PROCLAMATION

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

RESPECT! 24/7 Month

WHEREAS, the month of October is recognized nationally as National Bullying Prevention Month in the United States, a coordinated effort led by PACER, an organization formed in 1977 by parents of children and youth with disabilities to help other parents and families facing similar challenges; and

WHEREAS, each day more than 160,000 students in the United States stay home from school for fear of being bullied; and

WHEREAS, bullying was once considered to be a rite of passage in the life of a child and a form of "toughening" but it is now understood that bullying has long-lasting negative consequences on the mental health and self-esteem of a child in the most severe cases leading to escalated school site incidents and suicide; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Office of Education has taken proactive measures to address the issue by establishing an anti-bullying and civility initiative called RESPECT! 24/7 aimed at reducing incidents of bullying and to empower youth to exhibit leadership on the issue; and

WHEREAS, this year, recognizing that schools should be a safe place for students to learn and grow, the Board of Supervisors, San Mateo County agencies and Congresswoman Jackie Speier hosted a summit entitled Beyond Newtown: How to Ensure Safe Schools and Communities, the results of which include increased resources for mental health services for students and victims of bullying and enhanced coordination between San Mateo County agencies through a new mental health collaborative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County acknowledges bullying is an issue of serious concern and designates October 2013 as RESPECT! 24/7 Month in San Mateo County.

Dated: OCTOBER 22, 2013

SUPERVISORS:

DON HORSLEY, PRESIDENT

CAROLE GROOM

DAVID PINE

WARREN SLOCUM

ADRIENNE J. TISSIER

Attest:

Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors