

PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2017 AS

Fall Prevention Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than one-fourth of all Americans over the age of 65 will fall each year and that falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries and traumatic hospital admissions for this age group; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the San Mateo County Public Health Department reported there were 42 deaths, 1646 hospitalizations, and 4916 emergency department visits due to falls in over the age of 65; and, the economic cost of the known and reported falls occurring in 2013 totaled over \$130 million, which costs account for loss of work, hospitalizations, and ED visits; and

WHEREAS, over 50% of older adult falls are considered to be preventable and fall risks can be decreased through evidence-based practices, which include: regular exercise; medication management; annual vision exams; home safety improvements; and modification of behaviors considered to be high risk such as use of ladders and step stool; and

WHEREAS, in September 2015, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors recognizing the significance of older adult falls, awarded Measure A funding (and later, Measure K funding) to the Health System’s EMS Injury Prevention Program to implement the Stepping-On Older Adult Fall Program, an evidence-based prevention program that empowers older adults to carry out healthy behaviors, including strength and balance exercises that reduce the risks of falls; and

WHEREAS, the theme for National Fall Prevention Awareness Week 2017 is “10 Years Standing Together to Prevent Falls,” San Mateo County has proudly modified the national theme to “14 Years” to signify the number of years the Fall Prevention Coalition of San Mateo County (formally known as the San Mateo County Fall Prevention Task Force) has been working collaboratively towards the goal of decreasing falls among residence-dwelling, older adults in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Fall Prevention Coalition of San Mateo County was established in March 2003 and brings together more than 50 community provider agencies, hospitals, nonprofit organizations, senior centers, and private service providers committed to the organizational mission to decrease falls among older adults living in our community through collaboration, education, resource development, and advocacy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates September 2017, as **FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH** and encourages all San Mateo County residents – young and old to stand together and become proactive in reducing their own fall risks and those of family, friends, and neighbors.

Dated: September 12, 2017

SUPERVISORS:

DON HORSLEY, PRESIDENT

DAVE PINE

CAROLE GROOM

WARREN SLOCUM

DAVID J. CANEPA

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors