

530A



**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**FROM:** Riverside County Regional Medical Center, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff Department, and Department of Public Social Services

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
March 20, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Proclaiming the Month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month, in addition to supporting April 23, 2008, as "Wear Denim Day"

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors proclaim the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month, in addition to supporting April 23, 2008, as "Wear Denim Day."

**BACKGROUND:** Sexual assault and child abuse and neglect are serious problems profoundly affecting the physical, emotional, mental and social wellbeing of victims. April is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. April 23 is recognized as "Wear Denim Day" in recognition of efforts to dispel myths and injustices regarding sexual assault. With leadership and commitment, we believe we can work together with others to create short and long term solutions to the endemic problem of sexual violence in Riverside County and ask the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to proclaim April 2008 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and also Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, and April 23, 2008, as "Wear Denim Day."

Departmental Concurrence

Rod Pacheco, District Attorney

Stanley Sniff, Sheriff-Coroner

Susan Loew, Director, Department of Public Social Services

Douglas D. Bagley, Hospital Director

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	NA
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	07/08

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> No County funds will be used	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**  
APPROVE  
BY:   
Michael R. Shetler  
**County Executive Office Signature**

Dept't Recomm.:  Consent  Policy  
Per Exec. Ofc.:  Consent  Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | District: | Agenda Number:

2.4

WHEREAS, sexual assault and child abuse and neglect are intolerable violent crimes with public health implications for every person in Riverside County as a victim/survivor or as a family member, significant other, neighbor or co-worker of a victim/survivor; and

WHEREAS, no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual assault on their own-we must work together to educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and child abuse and neglect, support victim/survivors and their significant others, and increase support for agencies providing services to victim survivors; and

WHEREAS, ending sexual assault in Riverside County must include active public and private efforts to Speak Out Against Sexual Violence and Child Abuse in collaboration with Riverside County Regional Medical Center, District Attorney, and Department of Social Services, including conversation of what sexual violence and child and neglect are, how to prevent it, and how to help survivors connect with crucial counseling and other support services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence and child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, staff and volunteers of sexual assault programs in Riverside county work year round to encourage every person in Riverside County to Speak Out Against Sexual Violence and Child Abuse to support survivors by providing education and survivor empowerment information to schools, churches, civic organizations, as well as medical, mental health, law enforcement, education, and criminal justice personnel regarding sexual assault and child abuse and neglect issues;

WHEREAS, Riverside County has set an important example of how forging collaborative relationships between service agencies and organizations serves to improve the quality of service for those most profoundly and directly impacted by sexual violence, thus setting an important example for how the rest of the community might work together to speak out and find solutions to sexual violence;

WHEREAS, Riverside County requests public support and assistance as it continues its efforts to bring real hope for freeing Riverside County from the tragedy of sexual violence to create a future where all women, men, and children can live free from violence and exploitation;




NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim the month of April as SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH and CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH and proclaim April 23rd, 2008 as Denim Day, in recognition of efforts to dispel myths and injustices regarding sexual assault and child abuse and neglect, in Riverside County and commend this observance to all citizens.



MEMORANDUM

March 20, 2008

To: Roy Wilson, Chairman  
Riverside County Board of Supervisors

From: Rod Pacheco, District Attorney  
Stanley Sniff, Sheriff-Coroner   
Susan Loew, Director, DPSS   
Douglas Bagley, Hospital Director 

**Subject: Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month**

April is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Throughout April, Riverside County Regional Medical Center, Center of Excellence for Abuse Services is organizing a series of events to help every member of our community *Speak Out Against Sexual Violence*. Our goal is to encourage everyone in Riverside County to learn about sexual violence, how to prevent it, and how to help survivors heal.

Riverside County Regional Medical Center, the Center of Excellence for Abuse Services is Speaking Out Against Sexual Violence in coordination with California's rape crisis centers and the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA). We share the view that sexual violence is a serious problem profoundly affecting the physical, emotional, mental and social wellbeing of victims. With leadership and commitment, we believe that we can work together with others to create short and long term solutions to an endemic problem of sexual violence, including unhealthy and unsafe relationships.

We are asking for your help in recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month and specifically, April 23<sup>rd</sup> as Denim Day. People all over California are planning to help us break the silence and the dress code and wear denim to work. We would appreciate it if you could issue a Proclamation for April 23<sup>rd</sup> as Denim Day and a Proclamation recognizing April as Sexual Assault/Abuse Awareness Month.

Denim Day is endorsed by Riverside County Regional Medical Center asking to enlist the support of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and the public to dispel harmful attitudes about rape. The Denim Day campaign began in 1999 with the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women as part of an international protest of an Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim was wearing jeans. The Italian Supreme Court dismissed the charges against a 45 year-old rape suspect because his 18 year-old victim was wearing jeans at the time of the attack. The Court stated in its decision, that it is common knowledge...that jeans cannot even be partly removed without the effective assistance of the person wearing them...and it is impossible if the victim is struggling with all her might. The judgment sparked a worldwide outcry from those who understand coercion; threats and violence go along with the act of rape. The unpopular verdict became an international symbol of myth-based injustice for sexual assault victims.

The Proclamation of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month and April 23<sup>rd</sup> as Denim Day are just outward examples of how a community can help change the people's perceptions about violence against women, men, and children.

Please support us in our fight to prevent interpersonal violence by challenging harmful attitudes, teaching violence prevention in the schools and the community at large and encouraging schools and other agencies to join us in these efforts.

Thank you for the consideration of this request. A Sample Proclamation is enclosed as well as a list of events that will be offered by Riverside County Regional Medical Center, the Center of Excellence for Abuse Services. We look forward to partnering with you to *Speak out Against Sexual Violence*.

cc: Vice Chairman Supervisor Jeff Stone  
Supervisor Marion Ashley  
Supervisor Bob Buster  
Supervisor John F. Tavaglione

Enclosures: Proclamation  
Riverside County Regional Medical Center Events Schedule