

Sexually Exploited Minors Awareness Week

April 22 through April 26, 2013

WHEREAS, the United Nations has estimated as many as 400,000 children and youth under the age of 18 have been exploited within the United States; and

WHEREAS, all children are potentially vulnerable to exploitation and the need of increased awareness and additional specialized services is greater than ever before; and

WHEREAS, both public and private providers within Alameda County have reported a steady and alarming increase of children involved in prostitution; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County, demonstrating its commitment to children, established a task force in 2004 to address the issue of child prostitution through the Interagency Children’s Policy Council (ICPC), with the support of Alameda County Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court, Probation Department, Health Care Services Agency, Social Services Agency, the City of Oakland, Oakland Police Department, and community providers, to build a baseline of information regarding the victimization of young people and to identify viable strategies and approaches to meet the needs of this challenging population that touches multiple public systems; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed the fourth week in April as “Sexually Exploited Minors Awareness Week” to highlight the prevalence of commercial sexual exploitation among young people and recognize its impact as a form of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Human Relations Commission, in support of the Sexually Exploited Minors Network, is dedicated to preventing and ending this abusive practice; and

WHEREAS, during the week of April 22 through April 26, the Sexually Exploited Minors Network along with the Alameda County Human Relations Commission, local providers and residents have organized several educational activities and events to increase awareness and resiliency among youth and their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, does hereby proclaim the week of **April 22 through April 26, 2013 as Sexually Exploited Minor Awareness Week** and encourages residents to join Alameda County in raising awareness about the plight of children and youth being sexually exploited as well as promote vigilance and community commitment.

KEITH CARSON, President
Supervisor, Fifth District

April 23, 2013

SCOTT HAGGERTY, Vice President
Supervisor, First District

RICHARD VALLE
Supervisor, Second District

WILMA CHAN
Supervisor, Third District

NATE MILEY
Supervisor, Fourth District