

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 294202 (R-2001-837)

ADOPTED ON NOV 20 2000

WHEREAS, the American Psychiatric Association Alliance (APA Alliance) initiated the “When Not To Keep a Secret” essay project in 1998 as a way to challenge adolescents’ sense of immortality and give students permission to break a confidence, trust a significant adult, and understand that violent talk can lead to violent behavior; and

WHEREAS, the “When Not To Keep a Secret” essay project forces students to think, confront harsh truths and explore a high form of ethical behavior, and encourages them to offer personal testimony about situations that have hurt or frightened them or others; and

WHEREAS, the “When Not To Keep a Secret” essay project touches the lives and thoughts of students, parents, educators, school nurses and school counselors, and has become an important tool of awareness and responsibility, education and discussion; and

WHEREAS, the “When Not To Keep a Secret” essay project is gaining recognition throughout the 50 states as a project that educates students, teachers, peer counselors and parents about psychiatric issues, and is a proactive, non-threatening tool in the effort to raise awareness regarding youth suicide, school violence, eating disorders, depression, substance abuse, sexual behavior that results in sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies, and anger management; and

WHEREAS, the 2000-2001 “When Not To Keep a Secret” essay project for 9th and 10th graders runs through March 16, 2001, with national judging to take place from March 17 through April 7, 2001, and national winners announced April 12, 2001; and

WHEREAS, locally the Friends of San Diego Psychiatric Society will oversee the judging of essays, and they have invited area health reporters, television anchors, Superior Court judges, PTA leaders, business leaders, elected officials, and presidents of the San Diego County Medical Society and San Diego Psychiatric Society to rate the top 10 percent of essays from the County; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council does hereby commend the American Psychiatric Association Alliance for sponsoring the 2000-2001 National High School Essay Project **"WHEN NOT TO KEEP A SECRET."**

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By Stuart H. Swett

Stuart H. Swett
Deputy City Attorney

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11/06/2000
Or.Dept:District - 3
R-2001-837
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