

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 297197

ADOPTED ON OCT 21 2002

WHEREAS, 1.2 to 2 million Americans are experiencing homelessness each year, with an estimated 760,000 homeless Americans on any given night and over 6,500 homeless veterans, men, women, seniors, and children in the City of San Diego; and

WHEREAS, over the past 15 to 20 years, a growing shortage of affordable rental housing and an increase in poverty has forced people living on the edge into homelessness; and

WHEREAS, homelessness transcends the boundaries of race, gender, age, sexual orientation and class affecting both employed and unemployed individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, there are 7,000 homeless farm workers, who live year-round under abysmal living conditions in encampments on public and private land in canyons and hillsides, near farming operations where they seek day labor harvesting America's crops and what they receive is not sufficient enough to allow them to afford traditional housing; and

WHEREAS, mental illness is often a symptom of homelessness, and there are about 1,900 severely mentally ill homeless in San Diego County alone; and

WHEREAS, over 2,100 people, or one quarter of the urban homeless population in the region, are homeless families where the children develop behavioral and emotional problems allowing them to be more susceptible to becoming anxious, depressed, aggressive and thereby suffering from a variety of physical disorders; and

WHEREAS, there are over 600 homeless women on the streets of San Diego that have either been abandoned by spouses, male friends or families, or who have escaped abusive

situations and have been left inadequately prepared to earn a viable income; and


WHEREAS, over 2,000 veterans, more prevalent in San Diego due to its large military presence, are homeless, with many of them suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders that cause disturbing memories, flashbacks or nightmares; and

WHEREAS, Homeless Awareness Month is an effort to raise the community's awareness about the needs of the homeless and to encourage the community to support the efforts of homeless social service organizations in the City of San Diego; NOW, THEREFORE,


BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the citizens of San Diego, recognizes the existence and plight of homeless population of the City of San Diego and encourages the goals and missions of those that fight to end homelessness in San Diego.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that October 2002, be and is hereby proclaimed to be **"HOMELESS AWARENESS MONTH"** in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By   
Stuart H. Swett  
Senior Deputy City Attorney

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