

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 299770

ADOPTED ON OCT 11 2004

WHEREAS, the white cane serves not only as a traveling tool and mobility aide for visually impaired citizens, but also as a powerful symbol of independence for the blind; and

WHEREAS, the white cane originated in Europe in 1921 when a blind man by the name of James Biggs painted his walking stick white in order to make himself more visible to motorists; and

WHEREAS, the concept of the white cane was introduced to the United States in 1930 by the Lion's Club when they began a national program which promoted the use of white canes for persons who are blind; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, the President of the United States proclaimed October 15 of every year to be "White Cane Safety Day" in order to honor the achievements of the blind and to recognize its significance in advancing independence; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego's Police Department has been instrumental in publicizing the White Cane Law, which grants protections and the right of way to blind individuals who carry a white cane or use the assistance of a guide dog; and

WHEREAS, this law has promoted courtesy and opportunity for mobility of the blind as well as provided safety for both pedestrians and motorists; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 40th Anniversary of White Cane Safety Day; NOW,
THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, hereby proclaims October 11, 2004, to be **“WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY”** in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By Stuart H. Swett
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SHS:jab
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Or.Dept:Council-Maienschein
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