

Sexually Exploited Minors Awareness Week April 23 through April 27, 2012

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, 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, legislation known as the "Abolition of Child Commerce, Exploitation, and Sexual Slavery Act of 2011" (the ACCESS Act) was signed by the Governor to update state law relating to human trafficking and child sex slavery to treat the trafficked children as victims, rather than as prostitutes; 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, during the week of April 23 through April 27, the Sexually Exploited Minor Provider Network along with Alameda County providers and community members have organized several activities in an effort to promote awareness through knowledge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, does hereby proclaim the week of **April 23 through April 27, 2012 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.

NATE MILEY, President
Supervisor, Fourth District

April 24, 2012

KEITH CARSON, Vice President
Supervisor, Fifth District

SCOTT HAGGERTY
Supervisor, First District

NADIA LOCKYER
Supervisor, Second District

WILMA CHAN
Supervisor, Third District