

MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION NUMBER 20-21-15

Recognizing

RED RIBBON WEEK

October 23 - 31, 2020

WHEREAS, recognized annually since 1985 during the last week in October, **Red Ribbon Week** is the oldest and largest drug abuse prevention program in the nation reaching millions of young people; and

WHEREAS, to help amplify the mission to encourage children, families and communities to live healthy, safe and drug-free lives, the 2020 **Red Ribbon Week** theme, submitted by a first year physical education teacher, is *Be Happy, Be Brave, Be Drug Free*; and

WHEREAS, **Red Ribbon Week** is a call to action to speak out in support of healthy choices and is a reminder that by staying drug free you are sending a message to yourself and others about how much you value yourself, your overall health, your community, and your future; and

WHEREAS, the **Red Ribbon Campaign** started when drug traffickers in Mexico City murdered DEA Agent Kiki Camarena in 1985, thus creating the tradition of displaying Red Ribbons as a symbol of intolerance towards the use of drugs and to raise awareness of the destruction caused by drugs in America; and

WHEREAS, 2020 has been especially challenging on the mental health and anxiety of our community, from being isolated due to the COVID-19 pandemic to experiencing devastating wildfires, and **Red Ribbon Week** delivers a message of hope and serves as a way to educate youth, encourage participation in drug prevention activities, and promote the **National Red Ribbon Campaign Pledge**; and

WHEREAS, **Red Ribbon Week** is an ideal way for people and communities to unite and take a visible stand against drugs and the Monterey County Board of Education encourages residents to show a personal commitment to a drug-free lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that drug prevention education efforts be accessible to eliminate the demand for drugs and the Monterey County Board of Education commends local organizations that educate our youth and residents, promote community-wide support for substance abuse prevention, and offer affordable substance abuse counseling and recovery options that assist individuals in regaining their physical, emotional, and spiritual health:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monterey County Board of Education adopts Resolution Number 20-21-15 to recognize the last week of October as **Red Ribbon Week** and encourages parents, students, schools, businesses, institutions, organizations, and individuals throughout the County to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free, healthy lifestyles.

Passed and Adopted on the Twenty-Third Day of September 2020

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