

## Designating May 2014 as Mental Health Awareness Month San Mateo County

WHEREAS, mental health is fundamental to the overall health and well-being of all residents in San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, mental illness will affect nearly one in four adults in the United States in a given year, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, mental illness is one of the leading causes of disabilities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, mental health problems are as treatable as other health problems, and people who have mental illnesses can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease and Control (CDC), an estimated two-thirds of adults and youth with a diagnosable mental illness are not receiving the help they need; and

WHEREAS, stigma and fear of discrimination from others, including employers, prevent many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and

WHEREAS, public education about mental illnesses, and the sharing of personal stories can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 observance of Mental Health Awareness Month will help raise awareness of the importance of mental health and the stigma people with mental illness face, while delivering the message that, with proper treatment, recovery is generally possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, JEFFREY GEE, MAYOR OF REDWOOD CITY on behalf of the City Council, do hereby designate May 2014 as Mental Health Awareness Month and call upon the residents, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in Redwood City to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

Jeffrey Gee Mayor

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Date: May 12, 2014

