

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

Resolution in Recognition of the Child Welfare System Population as  
a Priority Population of the County of Santa Clara

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors recognizes the County's duty under the law to make reasonable efforts to keep families intact whenever possible, both to avoid removal of children initially and to facilitate prompt and quality reunification when such removal is required; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Supervisors affirms that when the government intervenes to protect children from harm and removes children from their homes, those children and their families must receive the services necessary to ameliorate the conditions causing government intervention, such as drug treatment, mental health services, specialized court settings, etc; and

**WHEREAS** the Board understands that if meaningful intervention is not provided to such families, the County will bear greater costs later in the spectrum vis a vis foster homes, jail time for adults, delinquency court and juvenile detention, child support collection, joblessness, homelessness and generations of drug-exposed fetuses, resulting in premature births and children with educational deficits, all of which cost millions of dollars; and

**WHEREAS** there are currently approximately 2200 foster youths that are considered to be dependents as defined in the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 300, an overwhelming and disproportionately high number of whom are children of color, and their future safety, permanency, and well-being rest on effective social work case management, drug treatment, mental health treatment, health services, and supportive services for access to transportation and housing;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors recognizes the child welfare/court population as a priority population of the County of Santa Clara, and each agency must coordinate its services to meet the needs of this population and reduce overrepresentation, in a collaborative justice model.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, on \_\_\_\_\_, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Supervisors  
**NOES:** Supervisors  
**ABSENT:** Supervisors

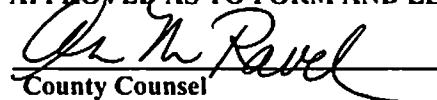
\_\_\_\_\_  
**LIZ KNISS, President**  
**Board of Supervisors**

Signed and certified that a copy of this document has been delivered by electronic or other means to the President, Board of Supervisors.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MARIA MARINOS**  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Counsel