

**Resolution No. 14-031**  
**Meeting Date: 03/11/2014 (29)**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
DECLARING MARCH AS PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, More deaths were caused by drug overdoses in 2010 than traffic accidents among people 25 to 64 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2010, drug overdoses in the United States resulted in 38,329 deaths and 22,134 of those were from prescription drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2011, an estimated 22.5 million Americans aged 12 or older used an illicit drug or abused a prescription drug in the past month; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department (ED) visits were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals (an increase of 98.4% since 2004); and

**WHEREAS**, Non-medical use of prescription painkillers cost health insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health-care costs; and

**WHEREAS**, Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers (OPR) now exceed deaths caused by heroin and cocaine combined; and

**WHEREAS**, 70% of people who abuse prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a doctor; and

**WHEREAS**, During the last seven National Prescription Drug Take Back Days, a total of 3.4 million pounds of medication have been removed from circulation and potential diversion; and

**WHEREAS**, The 2013 National Drug Control Strategy listed four interventions to reduce prescription drug abuse, one of which was to provide safe drug disposal by increasing the number of take-back programs, and supporting a well-publicized statewide medication take-back system that is much more convenient to consumers than the current one-day events or disposal at hazardous waste facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, The Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force (PDATF), originally the Oxy Task Force, was convened by now retired San Diego County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 2008, and is now led by Supervisor Dave Roberts. Since its inception, all partners have agreed that participation from law enforcement, prevention, treatment, education, health, and community advocates is essential to address this growing problem; and

**WHEREAS**, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and local governments, health care practitioners and pharmacists of San Diego County and the general public will demonstrate their commitment to the prevention of prescription medication abuse by participating in activities intended to highlight local efforts during the month of March;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the San Diego County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare March as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month, and encourages the development of a sustainable statewide medicine take-back program; and that all citizens actively participate in prevention programs and activities; and that citizens safely store and dispose of their medications on a continual basis.

Approved as to Form and Legality  
THOMAS E. MONTGOMERY, County Counsel  
By STEPHEN R. MAGRUDER, Senior Deputy

ON MOTION of Supervisor D. Roberts, seconded by Supervisor Cox, the above Resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors, County of San Diego, State of California, on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES: Cox, Jacob, D. Roberts, Horn  
ABSENT: R. Roberts

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)  
County of San Diego)<sup>SS</sup>

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original Resolution entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

THOMAS J. PASTUSZKA  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By:   
Christina Gomez, Deputy



Resolution No. 14-031  
Meeting Date: 03/11/14 (29)

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 29**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION TO DECLARE MARCH AS PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW:**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report prescription drug abuse as the fastest-growing drug problem in the United States and has been declared a national epidemic. Pharmaceuticals are now involved in the majority of drug overdose deaths.

The Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force (PDATF), originally the Oxy Task Force, was convened by now retired San Diego County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 2008, and is now led by Supervisor Dave Roberts. Since its inception, all partners have agreed that participation from law enforcement, prevention, treatment, education, health, and community advocates is essential to address this growing problem.

Realizing the necessity to raise awareness of this growing epidemic, California Governor Jerry Brown formally adopted March as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness month after California State Senator Mark DeSaulnier introduced the resolution in January of 2013.

This Board Letter asks the Board to adopt a resolution to declare March as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**SUPERVISOR DAVE ROBERTS**

Adopt the attached "Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego Declaring March as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month."

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor D. Roberts, seconded by Supervisor Cox, the Board took action as recommended, adopting Resolution No. 14-031, entitled: RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DECLARING MARCH AS PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH.

AYES: Cox, Jacob, D. Roberts, Horn

ABSENT: R. Roberts

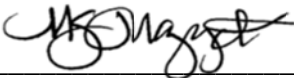
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State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

THOMAS J. PASTUSZKA  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



By   
Marvice E. Mazyck, Chief Deputy