

**PROCLAIMING
NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK
April 6-12, 2009**

WHEREAS, the national and local focus on health system reform provides an opportunity to improve the health of our communities and individuals through policies that help everyone get the health services they need—not just when they’re sick, but to prevent them from getting sick in the first place; and

WHEREAS, throughout history, public health has played a critical role in keeping people healthy, improving life expectancy and reducing demand for acute care services through advances such as water fluoridation, seat belt laws, immunizations, anti-tobacco legislation, healthy food in schools, food safety in restaurants, illness and injury prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, the *Marin County Safety Net Survey* estimates that approximately 22.2 % of Marin County residents are under or uninsured and that number is expected to increase substantially with the economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, our nation spends more on health care than any other country, yet our health system is failing and we are not as healthy as we should be; and

WHEREAS, a higher percentage of Marin County adults suffer from asthma, heart disease and mental/emotional health problems than for California and the U.S. in general; and

WHEREAS, our Division of Public Health functions to ensure the health, wellbeing and safety of Marin County residents on all levels ranging from policy development to individually focused programs, examples of which include nutrition and physical activity policies in our schools, curriculum based reproductive health education to over 1,400 high school and middle school youth, and the provision of over 700 vision, hearing and oral health screenings to low income children; and

WHEREAS, there can be no successful health reform without the support of a strong public health infrastructure: and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors, County of Marin, that the week of April 6-12th, 2009 be designated as National Public Health Week and call upon the people of Marin County to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders better understand the importance of public health to a successful health system in light of this year’s theme, **“Building the Foundation for a Healthy America.”**

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, County of Marin, State of California, this 7th day of April 2009, by an affirmative roll call vote.