

*The Board of Supervisors of  
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

**Resolution No. 2016/62**

**Recognizing March 2016 as Grand Jury Month in Contra Costa County**

**WHEREAS**, the Grand Jury system originated in England in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, it immigrated to the colonies and later moved westward to California; and

**WHEREAS**, while the primary role of the inquest in early England was as a means of apprehending and punishing criminals, records from the Grand Inquest state, “The inquest was required to present those whose duty was to keep in repair bridges, causeways and highways, for neglect of duty, to inquire into defects of goals and the nature thereof, who ought to repair them and who was responsible for any escapes which had occurred...”; and

**WHEREAS**, starting with what is now its indictment function, the criminal grand jury as we know it today slowly took on its civil, or “watchdog” responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, 600 years later, grand juries are still investigating agencies responsible for infrastructure and inquiring into jails; and

**WHEREAS**, the codification of grand jury law in California came about 1872 with the adoption of the Penal Code, where most all grand jury law resides; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1880, the grand jury was “authorized to investigate county governments, required to be impaneled annually to function specifically as watchdogs over county governments”; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the entire history of California as a state, grand juries have played an important role as the most independent of any body to provide unbiased review of local government operations, seeking more efficient and effective means of utilizing the taxpayer dollar.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby proclaim March 2016 as "Grand Jury Month" in Contra Costa County and recognize the Contra Costa County Grand Jury for the valuable role it serves in our democratic system of government.

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**CANDACE ANDERSEN**

Chair,  
District II Supervisor

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**JOHN GIOIA**  
District I Supervisor

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**MARY N. PIEPHO**  
District III Supervisor

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**KAREN MITCHOFF**  
District IV Supervisor

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**FEDERAL D. GLOVER**  
District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: March 8, 2016

David J. Twa,

By: \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy