

Approval to Proclaim the Week of September 28, 2008 through October 4, 2008 as Stanislaus County Diversity Awareness Week.

Page Two

DISCUSSION:

The Stanislaus County Equal Rights Commission is asking the Board of Supervisors to approve the week of September 28, 2008 through October 4, 2008 as Diversity Awareness Week in Stanislaus County. This is the fifth year the County has celebrated diversity in conjunction with other local activities and the Commission would appreciate the Board formally recognizing this week. Departments throughout the County have organized activities and displays acknowledging and increasing awareness of the various diverse cultures that make our County a wonderful place to live. These Countywide events will also help us to educate both our employees and the public. At 10th Street Place, the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County have partnered together to celebrate cultures representing our Sister County and Sister Cities around the world. The Sister Cities being represented this year at 10th Street Place on various floors will be Mayenne, France; Khmelnytsky, Ukraine; Vernon, Canada; Kurume, Japan, and Aguascalientes, Mexico. The Departments at the County Agricultural Center including the Agricultural Commissioner and the Department of Environmental Resources will be displaying goods that Stanislaus County imports from our Sister Cities and County and goods that our County exports to our Sister Cities and County. Volunteers from Modesto Junior College will be coming to the Animal Services Department and creating artwork to display of animals from our Sister Cities. The Community Services Agency is planning a Cultural Heritage Celebration on Tuesday September 30th, 2008 from 2pm to 4:30pm. The President of the Sister Cities organization of Modesto will be present to talk about Modesto's five sister cities. The Health Services Agency will be utilizing their Intranet site to share information about various cultures such as recipes, quizzes, and the ethnic makeup of their department.

POLICY ISSUE:

Creating public awareness of the diversity of cultures in Stanislaus County addresses the Board's priorities of effective partnerships as well as strong agricultural economy/heritage.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.