

FROM THE OFFICE OF
COUNCIL PRESIDENT LARRY WESTERLUND

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, mediation is a dispute Resolution process in which a neutral third person facilitates communication between disputants to help them reach a mutually acceptable agreement; and

Whereas, during the past 32 years, California community dispute resolution organizations have used mediation to resolve countless neighborhood disputes before formal legal proceedings were initiated and have been instrumental in the development and operation of mediation programs to resolve legal proceedings filed with the courts; and

Whereas, during the past 27 years California courts have increasingly encouraged, offered, and provided mediation to assist litigants in resolving civil, family, and juvenile actions and proceedings; and

Whereas, mediation offers many potential benefits to litigants, the courts, and the public, including increasing the interested parties' satisfaction with the litigation process and the courts and voluntary compliance with the terms of resolution, while reducing pretrial motions and trials, the time from filing of an action to disposition, future disputes between the parties, recidivism, litigant's costs, and court workloads; and

Whereas, the availability and success of court mediation programs are largely attributable to the efforts of judicial officers, court staff, and the court's justice partners, including local government agencies, state and local bar associations; and

Whereas, Fresno County Superior Court, is joined in partnership with local community mediation programs including Better Business Bureau of the San Joaquin Valley, Fresno Pacific University Center for Peacemaking, San Joaquin College of Law Mediation Center, California State University Fresno Peer Mediation Program, and local individual mediators, many of whom contribute significant time and resources in conducting mediations. All are integral components in service, education and outreach for mediation; and

Whereas, widespread public awareness of the nature, availability and benefits of mediation and court mediation programs is essential in ensuring the use of these programs and access to justice; and the Governor and other California state and local officials and agencies traditionally recognize the third week of March as mediation week.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Council President Larry Westerlund, on behalf of the Fresno City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of March 15 through 19, 2010, as

"MEDIATION WEEK"

In the City of Fresno, and commend the efforts of those who make mediation and mediation programs available to citizens of Fresno, and encourage the courts to recognize those individuals and publicize their mediation programs during MEDIATION WEEK.

DATED this 18th day of March, 2010.

LARRY WESTERLUND, Council President