

Falls Prevention Awareness Week

September 21 – 27, 2008

WHEREAS, it is estimated that nearly 15 percent of Alameda County citizens – over 220,000 people are 60 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one-third of adults over the age of 60 and 50 percent of adults over the age of 80 will fall each year, with medical costs of each fall-related hospitalization estimated at \$37,000; and

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among people over the age of 60, and the leading cause of doctor visits, hospital admissions, and emergency room visits; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, 2,512 older adults in Alameda County suffered injuries from a fall great enough to result in hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, falling, and the fear of falling, can lead to depression, isolation, diminished mobility, and loss of functional independence; and

WHEREAS, injuries from falls are a largely preventable community health problem; and

WHEREAS, the cause of falls is composed of multiple contributing factors including lack of strength in the lower extremities, the use of multiple medications, reduced vision, chronic health problems, and unsafe environments; and

WHEREAS, concentrated efforts are being made in Alameda County to reduce falls and fall related injuries by using multi-faceted interventions; and

WHEREAS, at the state level SCR 77 (D-Lowenthal) Fall Prevention Awareness Week, has passed the Senate and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, at the federal level the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 (S. 845) was passed in April. This bill calls for the expansion of public health programs, educational outreach, and research activities related to fall prevention; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim the week of ***September 21, 2008***, as “***FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK***” In Alameda County and call upon our citizens and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate activities that promote awareness of fall prevention.

July 22, 2008

Scott Haggerty, President
Supervisor, 1st District

Alice Lai-Bitker, Vice President
Supervisor, 3rd District

Gail Steele
Supervisor, 2nd District

Nate Miley
Supervisor, 4th District

Keith Carson
Supervisor, 5th District