

**OBSERVING
INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY
OCTOBER 6 2010**

WHEREAS, hundreds of children could be saved each year if communities take steps to make pedestrian and bicycle safety a priority; and

WHEREAS, a lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity, diabetes and other health problems among children. Communities that make it possible for children to walk or bicycle to school offer an opportunity to build activity into the daily lives and routines of children; and

WHEREAS, driving students to school by private vehicle contributes to traffic congestion as well as the production of environmentally harmful greenhouse gases, particulate matter and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, an important role for parents and caregivers is to become aware of the difficulties and dangers that children face on their trip to school each day and then teach children about pedestrian safety. By choosing to walk instead of driving, parents not only prevent air pollution but also help prevent health risks related to physical inactivity by getting children out to walk and play, increasing the likelihood of forming lifetime habits of physical activity and fitness; and

WHEREAS, community leaders and parents can determine the "walkability" of their community by using a walkability checklist and can work to achieve more walkable communities. By adopting best practices in street, sidewalk and infrastructure design, communities improve and assure that children can more safely and comfortably get to schools, public buildings, libraries and community gathering places; and

WHEREAS, community members and leaders should make plans to make immediate changes - both the small, less expensive ones, like street paint and signage and the long-term infrastructure improvements - to enable children to safely walk and bicycle in our communities. By developing a list of suggestions for improvements that can be done over time, communities are poised to take full advantage of opportunities as they arise and as funding becomes available to create a more livable, walkable community; and

WHEREAS, children, parents and community leaders around the world are joining together to walk and roll to school and are asked, while doing so, to evaluate walking and bicycling conditions extant in their communities, with an eye toward improving safety and comfort.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin hereby proclaims October 6, 2010, as "International Walk to School Day" in Marin County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin encourages everyone to walk and roll to school on October 6, and to observe conditions as they make the trip. With that experience, community leaders, parents and residents are urged to resolve to make both immediate and longer term changes to increase the health and safety of children today and everyday.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 21st day of September 2010.