

PIMA COUNTY SUPERVISOR

DISTRICT 5

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 22, 2016

TO:

Richard Elías, District Five Supervisor

FROM:

**REGARDING:** Item for the January 3, 2017 agenda, or addendum

Please add the following to the January 3, 2017 agenda. or addendum:

**Proclamation** 

Declaring January 2017 to be "Stalking Awareness Month." (District 5)

Thank you

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, under the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories and the federal government, stalking is a crime; and

WHEREAS, National Stalking Awareness Month is observed in January; and

WHEREAS, about 7.5 million people per year are stalked in the United States and the majority of victims are stalked by someone they know; and

WHEREAS, three in four women killed by an intimate partner in the United States had been stalked by their intimate partner before the fatal act; and

WHEREAS, many stalking victims lose time from work and experience serious psychological distress and lost productivity at a rate much higher than the general population; and

WHEREAS, many stalking victims are forced to protect themselves by relocating homes, changing their identities, changing jobs, and obtaining protective orders; and

WHEREAS, immigrant stalking victims are particularly vulnerable and face complex challenges to reporting the crime – language barriers, fears about immigration status and lack of extended family or social networks in the United States; and

WHEREAS, many stalkers use technology – cell phones, global positioning systems, cameras and spyware – to monitor and track their victims; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for greater public awareness about the nature, criminality and potential for harm, even lethal, of stalking; and

WHEREAS, criminal justice systems can enhance their responses to stalking with regular training of lawenforcement officers, aggressive investigation of stalking cases, and vigorous prosecutions for this crime; and

WHEREAS, laws and public policies need to be frequently adapted to keep pace with new stalking tactics; and

WHEREAS, communities can better combat stalking with multidisciplinary responses using teams of local agencies and organizations, and if they provide more and enhanced victim services,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby declares the month of January 2017 to be:

## "STALKING AWARENESS MONTH"

and encourages all residents, social services providers and law enforcement agencies in Pima County to join forces with the YWCA of Southern Arizona in observing Stalking Awareness Month, supporting victims of stalking, and speaking out against this crime.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of January 2017.

The Honorable Sharon Bronson, Chair Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: