

Resolution Designating the Week of March 14-20, 2021
As National Public Defender Week in Monterey County.

WHEREAS, The Monterey County Public Defender Office is joining forces with National, State and County-wide celebration of National Public Defense Week; and,

WHEREAS, Fifty-eight years ago, when the US Supreme Court decided the landmark case of *Gideon v Wainwright*, a right to counsel for people too poor to afford to hire an attorney was established; and

WHEREAS, The Monterey County Public Defender Office hopes to create public awareness to highlight the important, dedicated, excellent and diligent work that everyone in the indigent defense community does every day on behalf of their clients;

WHEREAS, Whether it be public defenders, private defense attorneys, paralegals, investigators, legal processors, secretaries, social workers or private advocates, they are all warriors against social injustice, abuse of power, inequities, and inequality in our criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Public defenders work hard and zealously advocate for people in order to restore and affirm their human dignity and values, and to vindicate their legal and human rights; and

WHEREAS, Public defenders are dedicated to ensuring everyone exercises their Constitutional right to counsel and are on the front lines of today's greatest civil rights struggles.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County, on behalf of all citizens thereof, recognizes March 14-20, 2021 as National Public Defender Week; and express our appreciation of those who advocate to build a more just and equitable society.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 16TH DAY OF March 2021.