

COUNTY OF MONTEREY PROCLAMATION

Adopt a resolution proclaiming October 20–26, 2024 as Free Speech Week in Monterey County

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the fundamental rights of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, the right to peaceably assemble, and the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances; and

WHEREAS, Free Speech Week is observed annually across the United States to highlight the importance of free expression as the cornerstone of democracy and civic life; and

WHEREAS, open dialogue, robust debate, and the free exchange of ideas are essential to the functioning of a healthy democracy and to the well-being of our diverse community; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County is home to a rich tapestry of voices, cultures, and perspectives, and the protection of free expression ensures that all residents are heard and valued; and

WHEREAS, the County of Monterey reaffirms its commitment to uphold, defend, and protect these constitutional freedoms for all who live, work, and visit here; and

WHEREAS, Free Speech Week provides an opportunity to reflect on the vital role of free expression in our schools, workplaces, media, and civic institutions, and to encourage respectful discourse in our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the **Monterey County Board of Supervisors** hereby declares the week of **October 20–26, 2024**, as **Free Speech Week in Monterey County**, and encourages residents, organizations, educational institutions, and community partners to celebrate and safeguard the freedoms guaranteed under the First Amendment.

Dated: _____

Signed: _____

Chair, Monterey County Board of Supervisors