



**PROCLAMATION
DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH
October 2014**

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara recognizes that our children are our most valuable resource, we must provide opportunities to learn and grow; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health defines dyslexia as an inheritable and highly prevalent language based disability affecting 1 in 5 individuals; and

WHEREAS, dyslexia, meaning "difficulty with words," constitutes one of the several distinct learning disabilities and is characterized by challenges in processing language when decoding oral and written words; and

WHEREAS, dyslexia deeply affects people's ability to read, write, spell and comprehend and may also affect people emotionally and their overall wellbeing that can last a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, children with dyslexia, especially those who are not identified and are reading below grade level at the end of third grade, often experience difficulties with depression, anxiety, and poor self-image and rarely catch up to their peers, and as a result, underperform in school and are at a greater risk for failure and dropping out before completing high school; and

WHEREAS, each person who struggles to learn is unique and deserves every chance to fulfill his or her potential for a happy and productive life; and

Whereas, in an effort to assist parents, educators and individuals, the International Dyslexia Association has designated October as Dyslexia Awareness Month.

NOW THEREFORE, I HELENE SCHNEIDER, by virtue of the authority invested in me as Mayor of the City of California, do hereby acknowledge and proclaim October 2014, as Dyslexia Awareness Month in the City of Santa Barbara, California and encourage all citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Santa Barbara, California, to be affixed this 7th day of October.




HELENE SCHNEIDER
Mayor