



**PROCLAMATION DECLARING
APRIL AS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH AND
APPOINTMENT OF POET LAUREATE
SOJOURNER KINCAID ROLLE**

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara is widely recognized as an arts center, providing a spiritual home for creative activity, and for writers, in particular; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, the Academy of American Poets has designated April as National Poetry Month to highlight the extraordinary achievements and ongoing legacy of American Poets and increase visibility, presence, and accessibility of poetry in our communities and culture; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara established a Poet Laureate position in 2005 in order to direct proper attention and honor to the spoken word by utilizing poetry to celebrate and elevate community events; and

WHEREAS, newly-appointed City Poet Laureate Sojourner Kincaid Rolle will be leading the community through poetry-focused events and programs throughout the month of April; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara recognizes the value of the Arts Commission's participation in the Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Competition through a partnership with the California Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts & National Poetry Foundation; a program that helps high school students master public speaking, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HELENE SCHNEIDER, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara, California, do hereby declare April as National Poetry Month and celebrate the Appointment of Poet Laureate, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle.

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 April 2015.



HELENE SCHNEIDER
Mayor

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