



**PROCLAMATION**

**NATIONAL POETRY MONTH**

**April 2016**

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

*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 in Santa Barbara.*

*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 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016.*

**HELENE SCHNEIDER**

Mayor

