City of Santa Barbara

PROCLAMATION

White Cane Safety Day
October 15, 2007

WHEREAS, *the white cane, or guide dog, which every blind citizen has the right to carry, reveals the user's capacity to achieve an independent life, indicates the ability to work in competitive employment, and the possibility for each person to participate and contribute to our rapidly changing society; and*

WHEREAS, *every person should be aware that the law requires motorists to exercise appropriate caution when approaching a blind person carrying a white cane or using a guide dog; and*

WHEREAS, *state law also calls upon employers, in both the public and private sectors, to use the productive employment skills of our blind citizens by recognizing their worth as individuals and rewarding their capabilities; and*

WHEREAS*, the City of Santa Barbara, with the cooperative assistance of Adelaida Ortega, President of the Santa Barbara South Coast Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of California, looks forward to a continued expansion of employment opportunities for, and greater acceptance of, blind persons in the competitive labor market,*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTY BLUM, *by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara, California, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2007 as* ***WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY*** *for the purpose of bringing a greater understanding of blindness to the citizens of this city. Furthermore, calling upon our schools to offer training for blind persons; employers to utilize the available skills of capable blind persons by opening new opportunities for the blind; and all members of our community to recognize the white cane as an instrument of safety and self-help for blind pedestrians everywhere.*

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 15th day of October, 2007.*

Marty Blum

MARTY BLUM, MAYOR