

Falls Prevention Awareness Week

September 19 – 25, 2010

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 14 percent of Los Angeles County’s citizens – over 1,500,000 people – are 60 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one-third of adults over the age of 60 and 50 percent of adults over the age of 80 will fall each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, 20,755 older adults in Los Angeles County suffered injuries from a fall great enough to result in hospitalization, with each fall-related hospitalization averaging \$54,500 in medical costs; and

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among people over the age of 60, and the leading cause of doctor visits, hospital admissions, and emergency room visits; and

WHEREAS, falling and the fear of falling can lead to depression, isolation, diminished mobility, and loss of functional independence; and

WHEREAS, injuries from falls are a largely preventable community health problem; and

WHEREAS, falls can be reduced by 20-30 percent through strategies including fall risk assessments; medication management; fall hazard reduction in the home and community environments; physical activity programs focused on balance and strength; and public education; and

WHEREAS, concentrated efforts are being made in Los Angeles County by the Fall Prevention Coalition – Los Angeles (FPC-LA), its member organizations, and other groups to reduce falls and fall-related injuries by using multi-faceted interventions; and

WHEREAS, at the state level, SCR 77 (D-Lowenthal) Fall Prevention Awareness Week was passed in 2008; and

WHEREAS, at the federal level, the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 (S. 845) became public law in April 2008, calling for the expansion of public health programs, educational outreach, and research activities related to fall prevention; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim the week of **September 19, 2010**, as **“FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK”** In Los Angeles County and call upon our citizens and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate activities that promote awareness of fall prevention.

Dated: September 17, 2010

Gloria Molina
Supervisor, 1st District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor, 3rd District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor, 2nd District

Don Knabe
Supervisor, 4th District

Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor, 5th District