



*Supervisor Janet Nguyen, First District  
Chair, Orange County Board of Supervisors*

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**Memorandum**

Date: August 19, 2010

To: Darlene Bloom  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

From: Matthew Harper  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Janet Nguyen

Re: Resolution declaring September 8, 2010 to be Literacy Day in Orange County

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2010 AUG 19 AM 10:09  
CLERK OF THE BOARD  
ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Please agendize the attached resolution declaring September 8, 2010 to be Literacy Day in Orange County for approval at the Board of Supervisors' Meeting dated August 24, 2010 as a supplemental item.

Additionally, please agendize the presentation of this resolution at the subsequent meeting after its passage.

If you have any questions please contact me at 714-834-3110.

Sincerely,

Matthew Harper  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Office of Supervisor Janet Nguyen, First District  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

By the authority of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the following resolution is hereby issued:

WHEREAS, International Literacy Day calls attention to the global effort to promote literacy and education so that every child, youth, and adult acquires the essential life skills for effective participation in the societies and economies of the twenty-first century; and

WHEREAS, the United States is one of the most technologically advanced countries in the world, yet forty-four million Americans are at the lowest level of literacy, lacking the basic skills necessary to function effectively in society; and

WHEREAS, in Orange County alone, more than 350,000 residents lack the literacy skills to fill out an employment application, obtain a driver's license, read to their children, read medicine labels or poison warning, or vote; and

WHEREAS, children whose parents cannot read are twice as likely as their peers to be functionally illiterate, creating an on-going intergenerational cycle of illiteracy; and

WHEREAS, READ/Orange County, the adult literacy services of the OC Public Libraries, is breaking this cycle of illiteracy by providing no-cost, direct one-to-one and small group tutoring in reading, writing and English skills to low-level and non-reading residents of Orange County; and

WHEREAS, READ/Orange County is supported by talented and committed volunteers who tutor adult learners and participate in specialized literacy programs, including Family Literacy Services, Working for Inmates Now and English Language Civics Education, and

WHEREAS, during the past 18 years, more than 3,000 trained and certified tutors provided 108,000 hours of service, as READ/Orange County volunteers and the value of their involvement is estimated at \$2,750,000; and

WHEREAS, beyond the dollar value of their contributions, READ/Orange County volunteers currently tutor more than 300 adult learners, helping them overcome the challenges of illiteracy and reap the benefits of employment, community integration, and civic involvement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare September 8, 2010 to be "Literacy Day" in Orange County and

commend the volunteers, adult learners, and staff of READ/Orange County, OC Community Resources and OC Public Libraries for outstanding achievement in promoting a literate and educated community.