**PROCLAIMING JANUARY 2022**

**AS POSITIVE PARENTING AWARENESS MONTH IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

WHEREAS, raising children and youth to become healthy, confident, capable individuals is the most important job parents and caregivers have; and

WHEREAS, all people have inner strengths or resources, yet many parents, caregivers, children, and youth—of every age, race, ethnicity, culture, and social identity—feel stressed, isolated, and overwhelmed at times; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crises, and racial injustices have exacerbated economic insecurity, mental health challenges, domestic violence, discrimination, and other trauma experienced by families—particularly Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, and other families of color that already experience inequities rooted in structural racism; and

WHEREAS, the quality of parenting or caregiving is a powerful predictor of future social, emotional, and physical health, and families come in many forms with children raised by parents, grandparents, foster parents, family members, and other caregivers; and

WHEREAS, positive parenting is a protective factor that prevents and heals Adverse Childhood Experiences, which impact lifelong health and well-being and occur in the context of Adverse Community Environments that lack equity; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Cruz County, families can receive support from positive parenting programs, including the Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, an evidence-based program available thanks to a partnership between First 5 Santa Cruz County and the County’s Health Services Agency, Human Services Department, and Probation; and

WHEREAS, Triple P has benefitted over 40,000 parents and children in Santa Cruz County since 2010 through proven strategies to strengthen relationships, promote children’s development, and handle parenting challenges; and Triple P practitioners and other providers have maintained support for children and families throughout constant disruption and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, everyone can play a vital role in supporting parents and caregivers to raise happy, healthy children; and during the month of January, First 5 Santa Cruz County and many others, will be increasing awareness of the importance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bruce McPherson, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, hereby proclaim January 2022 to be the 10th Annual Positive Parenting Awareness Month in Santa Cruz County, California, and commend this observance to the people of this county.