

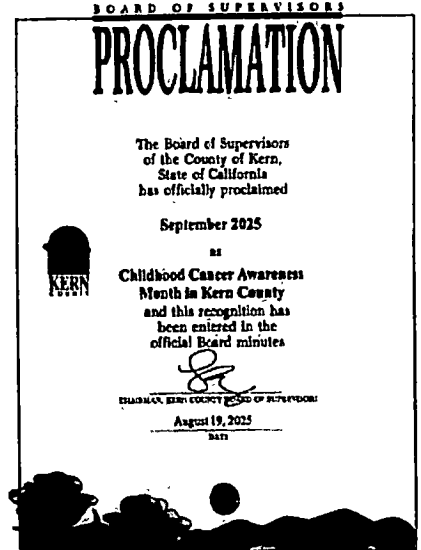
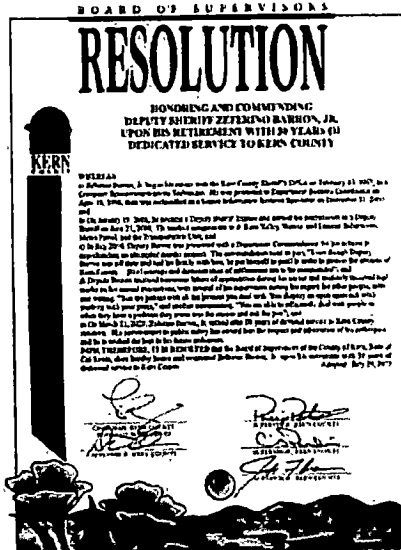
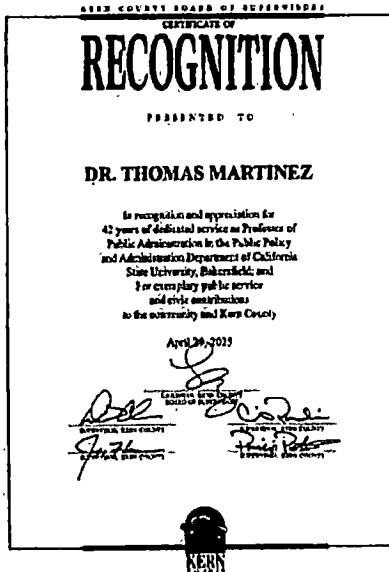
KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CERTIFICATE REQUEST FORM

Today's Date: 9/16/2026

Supervisorial District: _____

District 1

Type of certificate requested (mark box next to thumbnail, below):



Request for Presentation by Board of Supervisors

Board Meeting Date: _____

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

(Submission is due two weeks prior to Board date)

Item will be On-Consent (Not Presented) ☐

Item will be Off-Consent (Presented) ☒

If Certificate will not be presented at a Board Meeting, insert date of presentation: _____

(Submission is due at least 48 hours prior to presentation)

Name of Agency or Organization receiving Certificate: _____

Kern County Network for Children

(This name will appear on the Certificate)

Suggested text of Certificate or description of event/person being recognized: _____

Proclaim November 2026 as Homeless Youth Awareness Month

Mandi Redfearn

Signature of Board Member or District Staff

Submit Requests to Clerk of the Board.
Attach all supporting documents.



Kern County Network for Children

Our Children. Our Community.

September 16, 2026

KCNC Governing Board

Nancy Anderson
County Administrative Officer

Brynn Carrigan
KC Public Health Department

Dr. Chandra Commuri
Cal State University Bakersfield

Jennifer Catlett
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Linda Hoyle
Henrietta Weill Child Guidance Clinic

Peter Kang
Public Defenders Office

Dr. John Mendiburu
KC Superintendent of Schools

Lito Morillo
KC Dept. of Human Services

Chief Eliane Moore
KC Probation Department

Judge Norris
Juvenile Justice Center

Stephen Peiz
Housing Authority of KC

Phillip Peters
KC Board of Supervisors

Dr. James Rodriguez
Cal State University Bakersfield

Chief Brent Stratton
Bakersfield Police Department

Curt Williams
Foster Youth Services

Sheriff Donny Youngblood
KC Sheriff's Department

Dr. Michael Zulfa
Kern High School District

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, California 93301

PROCLAMATION OF NOVEMBER NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH (Fiscal Impact: None)

The purpose of this letter is to ask the Board of Supervisors to proclaim November 2026 as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month to serve as an outlet to increase public awareness of ongoing issues occurring in every city, county, and state.

According to our Homeless Management Information system from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, 1 in every 11-persons experiencing homelessness in Kern County is a Transitional Aged Youth (ages 18 to 25). For the past three years in any given month, Kern County's Homeless Youth by name list is comprised of approximately 200 youth experiencing homelessness. In July 2026 the list was comprised of 161 youth, a record low for Kern's Youth list by name data.

A study conducted by Chaplin Hall found an estimated 4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness, of which 700,000 are unaccompanied minors, meaning they are not part of a family or accompanied by a parent or guardian. On any given night, approximately 41,000 unaccompanied youth ages 13-25 experience homelessness over the course of a year. Additionally, the study "Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America" study from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, 1 in 10 youth between the ages of 18 and 25, and 1 in 30 youth between the ages of 13 and 17 experience homelessness each year. That is 3.5 million youth. About half explicitly reported homelessness, the other half involved couch surfing only.

The US Department of Health and Human Services' Family and Youth Services Bureau issued a Data Collection Study that provides an overview of the grim circumstances for homeless and runaway youth:

- The average youth spent nearly two years living on the streets.
- More than 60% were raped, beaten up, robbed, or otherwise assaulted.
- Nearly 30% of participants identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual, and nearly 7% identified as transgender.
- Half of youth had been in foster care

- Youth with a foster care history had been homeless for much longer (27.5 months on average) compared to youth who had never been in foster care (19.3 months, on average).

Those counts do not include the large numbers of homeless youth who were not counted that night because they were hiding, couch surfing with friends, sleeping in cars, in abandoned buildings or other places not easily identifiable. While trying to survive on the streets, youth are exposed to complex trauma and countless dangers, with an increased likelihood of substance abuse, early parenthood, impulsivity, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and a vulnerability to becoming a victim of sexual or human trafficking.

To help increase awareness locally, the Bakersfield Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative's Youth Action Board (YAB), whose membership is comprised of youth ages 18 to 24 who are currently or were formerly homeless, will be hosting an event On November 6th as a Youth Connect Day. The event intends to create a fun and engaging experience for youth to access service providers, support, and essential needs. YAB members have coordinated raffle prizes, youth transportation, and will be providing lunch to youth in attendance, making an impact for any person experiencing homelessness who attends. There will be an essential needs drive in association with Homeless Youth awareness month beginning November 1st and ending November 26th, some drop off locations include Kern County Network for Children's Dream Center, and Flood Ministries. Additionally, YAB members will assist in facilitating a Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE), at the Larry E Reider building 2000 K St., on November 13th where service providers will participate in a 2-hour simulation where they live a month in a person experiencing poverty's shoes.

We appreciate the County of Kern's efforts to help decrease youth homelessness and look forward to the opportunity to help increase community awareness of the number of youth who are homeless, the trauma they experience, the services that are available to assist, and the ways that community members can help make a difference for them. If you need additional information or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (661) 636-4488.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board proclaim the month of November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month and make presentation.

Sincerely,

Bryanna Wood

Bryanna Wood,
KCNC Coordinator