WHEREAS, Eritrea is one of the newest countries in the Horn of Africa, bordered by the Red Sea, Djibouti, Sudan, and Ethiopia. Eritrea achieved its Independence on May 24, 1991;

WHEREAS, Italy proclaimed the establishment of the colony of Italian Eritrea in 1890 as part of its African colonial empire. In 1941, Britain took over administration of the country;

WHEREAS, in 1952 the United Nations voted to make Eritrea a federal component of Ethiopia and Eritreans' aspirations for independence were dashed. In 1962, Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie dissolved the federation and annexed Eritrea, which led Eritreans to start an armed struggle to gain their independence, resulting in a bloody war that lasted 30 years;

WHEREAS, on May 24, 1991, the Eritrean fighters liberated the country from Ethiopia;

WHEREAS, on April 23-25, 1993 the Eritrean people held a United Nations-monitored referendum and voted overwhelmingly (99.8%) in favor of independence;

WHEREAS, every year, Eritrean communities worldwide observe May 24th as an opportunity to learn about Eritrean culture and community through shared poetry, dance, art, and good citizenship;

WHEREAS, on Sunday, May 24, 2020, the Eritrean American community is hosting a flag-raising event to celebrate Eritrea's Independence Day at the County Government Center Building in San José, California; and,

WHEREAS, Eritrean Americans and all Santa Clara County residents are urged to recognize and participate in activities to celebrate this important historical and cultural event.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara does hereby proclaim and recognize May 24, 2020 as the official celebration day of

Eritrean Independence Day

in Santa Clara County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Clara, State of California, on this Twelfth Day of May, Two Thousand and Twenty by unanimous vote.

______________________________
Cindy Chavez
President, Board of Supervisors

______________________________
Mike Wasserman
Supervisor, District One

______________________________
Dave Cortese
Supervisor, District Three

______________________________
Susan Ellenberg
Supervisor, District Four

______________________________
S. Joseph Simitian
Supervisor, District Five

______________________________
Approved as to form and legality:

______________________________
Megan Doyle
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

______________________________
James R. Williams
County Counsel

Adopted: 05/12/2020