

# Proclamation

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MARCH 3 - 9, 2003 AS

## THE BLACK CHURCH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS

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*PROCLAIMED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that*

*WHEREAS, the BLACK CHURCH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS is modeled after the groundbreaking Harlem Week of Prayer of the Healing of AIDS established in 1989 by Pernessia C. Seele, Founder and CEO of the Balm In Gilead; and*

*WHEREAS, the Balm In Gilead is the only organization in the United States dedicated exclusively to empowering churches in the struggle against the devastation of HIV/AIDS in the Black community and their pioneering achievements have enabled thousands of churches to become leaders in preventing HIV by providing comprehensive educational programs and offering compassionate support to encourage those infected to seek and maintain treatment; and*

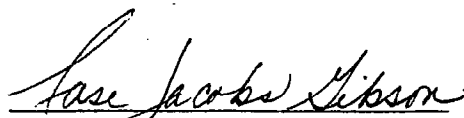
*WHEREAS, the BLACK CHURCH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS, now in its thirteenth year, has grown to become the largest AIDS awareness program in the United States targeting the Black community and, in doing so, it raises the awareness of the community at-large to the unique strengths of the Black church in addressing HIV/AIDS through culturally appropriate programs; and*

*WHEREAS, over 10,000 churches across our nation will accept the call to use the power of the Black pulpit to educate their communities about HIV/AIDS and to heal hearts and minds of denial, silence and the stigma that continues to suffocate effective interventions regarding prevention, treatment and testing in Black communities,*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that this Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County, hereby designates the week of March 3 - 9, 2003 the BLACK CHURCH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS in San Mateo County and invites all citizens to participate in related activities and events.*

*DATED: March 8, 2003*

SUPERVISORS:

  
ROSE JACOBS GIBSON, PRESIDENT