

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO DESIGNATE ALL MUNICIPAL FIRE STATIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF COSTA MESA JURISDICTION AS "SAFE-SURRENDER SITES" FOR NEWBORNS

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA DOES HEREBY
RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code section 1255.7, known as the "Safe Haven Law," was enacted in 2000 in response to widespread reports of babies being abandoned in trash bins and restrooms, and on the highways, and being discovered dead or in life-threatening medical and physical condition; and

WHEREAS, the "Safe Haven Law" encourages persons with custody of unwanted newborn children to anonymously surrender the newborn so that it may receive immediate medical attention; and

WHEREAS, according to the California Department of Social Services, in the first two years that the "Safe Haven Law" was in effect, 20 babies were safely surrendered; but 88 babies were still illegally abandoned, 20 of whom died; and

WHEREAS, the "Safe Haven Law" provides that (a) a parent or person having lawful custody of a child 72 hours old or younger, who delivers the child to a designated "Safe-Surrender Site," would be immune from criminal prosecution, (b) a person accepting custody of a newborn at a "Safe-Surrender Site" must

notify the County Child Protective Services Agency within 48 hours, and (c) permits the person surrendering a newborn to anonymously provide medical information to the person accepting custody; and

WHEREAS, the “Safe Haven Law” defines a “Safe-Surrender Site” as a location “designated by the board of supervisors of a county” to be responsible for accepting physical custody of a newborn; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Haven Law provides immunity for the safe surrender site and the personnel of the safe surrender site from civil, criminal, and administrative liability; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa strongly supports the “Safe-Surrender Site” program and desires that all City of Costa Mesa fire stations be designated as “Safe-Surrender Sites;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa hereby formally requests that the Orange County Board of Supervisors designate all fire stations within the City of Costa Mesa jurisdiction as “Safe-Surrender Sites” pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 1255.7.

Signatures on Following Page

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _th day of _____, 2005.

Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Deputy City Clerk of the City of Costa Mesa

City Attorney