

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: February 25, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeffrey Thorsby, Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Resolution proclaiming February 2025 as Grand Jury Awareness

Month in Nevada County

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: The Nevada County Grand Jury is an investigative judicial body impaneled by the State Constitution to investigate the operations of County agencies, special districts, schools, and other entities that receive public money. Each county is required to annually impanel a grand jury. Jurors are ordinary citizens who volunteer for a one-year term of service, where they act as the "watch dog," charged with protecting the interests of the citizens of Nevada County. Jurors spend 20-30 hours each week researching, interviewing, reading, and attending meetings to monitor local government activities.

Jurors choose issues to examine based on citizen-initiated complaints and on the will of the jurors. The jury is required to annually investigate all public prisons in the county. The jury may investigate the efficiency of local governmental activity, audit financial records, and review all public records. The deliberations of the grand jury are conducted in utmost secrecy and jurors are sworn to maintain confidentiality for life. Each jury is required to report annually on significant investigations and issue recommendations to resolve deficiencies.

Every year, to help recruit applicants for the grand jury, many cities and counties proclaim February or March as Grand Jury Awareness Month. As such, staff recommends the Board adopt the attached Resolution proclaiming February 2025 as Grand Jury Awareness Month in Nevada County.

Item Initiated: Mandy Stewart, Administrative Analyst II

Approved: Jeffrey Thorsby, Chief of Staff

Submittal Date: January 27, 2025