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October 22, 2019

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subject: Receive and File a Presentation on the Thousand Oaks Remembers
Storytelling Project**

Recommendation:

Receive and file a presentation on the Thousand Oaks Remembers Storytelling Project from Shannon Savage-Howie, member of the Thousand Oaks Remembers Steering Team.

Discussion:

In the early hours of November 8, 2018, the Thousand Oaks Teen Center was established as a crisis response center where families and friends of loved ones who were unaccounted for from the tragic shooting at the Borderline Bar and Grill could gather and await information. Within hours this crisis response center was evacuated along with much of the Thousand Oaks community as the Woolsey and Hill fires ignited and bared down on this already tragedy-stricken town. Though the shooting and the fires were two very separate events, they are and will forever be woven together in the experience and memory of this community. Likewise, the kindness, generosity, and strength of the people of Thousand Oaks is unforgettable as they worked together to build and create unity in the moments, days, weeks, and months that have followed those fateful events.

The aim of the Thousand Oaks Remembers storytelling project is to create a space for individuals and the community to move toward healing. The project is hosting a series of listening sessions where people can share their experiences in small groups and can submit written stories that will be archived by the Museum of Ventura County. Stories are being gathered electronically at www.thousandoaksremembers.com, on podcasts, through art, and there are a half dozen writing posts out in the community where people can handwrite their stories and put them in a box to be collected. Writing posts are located at California Lutheran University, California State University Channel Islands, at some local coffee shops, and the Grant Brimhall Library in Thousand Oaks. On the evening of the one-year anniversary there will be a live storytelling event sponsored by the City of



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Thousand Oaks at Scherr Forum Theatre where people can come together to hear a few select stories told from various perspectives within the Thousand Oaks community to remember and reflect.

Shannon Savage-Howie has led the Steering Committee of the Thousand Oaks Remembers project and will present information on the project and its purpose to our Board. In addition to Ms. Savage-Howie, members of the Steering Committee include:

Sergeant Dillan Alvarez, Ventura County Sheriff's Office
Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Thousand Oaks City Councilmember
Kelly Brown, Director of 211 Ventura County
Desta Goehner, Director of Congregational Relations, CLU
Wayne Jacobsen, Lifestream Ministries
Ashley Jones, Writer
Dawn Megli, Reporter, Thousand Oaks Acorn
Supervisor Linda Parks, County of Ventura
Shannon Savage-Howie, Community Member
Rev. Tom Stephen, Monte Vista Presbyterian Church

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Savage-Howie in appreciation of this worthwhile project documenting stories and helping the healing process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Parks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Parks
Supervisor, District 2