



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Chairman Doug Chaffee, Fourth District
FROM: Vicente Sarmiento, Supervisor Second District
DATE: March 11, 2025
Subject: **Presentation Item for April 22, 2025, Board of Supervisors Meeting**

Doug Chaffee
Vicente Sarmiento
RECEIVED
2025 MAR 11 PM 4:55
CLERK OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF ORANGE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Sarmiento requests a presentation be added to the agenda for the April 22, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting. The title should read:

Supervisor Sarmiento will be presenting a proclamation recognizing the month of April as "Cambodian Heritage Month," which celebrates and commemorate the contributions, achievements, and history of the Cambodian community in the County of Orange.

Cambodian Heritage Month

By the authority of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the following resolution is hereby issued:

WHEREAS, Cambodian Heritage Month is celebrated during the month of April to recognize the culture, traditions, and contributions of the Cambodian community; and

WHEREAS, Cambodian Heritage Month coincides with the celebration of the Cambodian New Year, also known as “Choul Chnam Thmey,” “Moha Sangkran,” or “Sangkran,” a three-day celebration that includes traditional food, dancing, and singing; and

WHEREAS, the Cambodian community has been a significant cultural population in Orange County since the late 1970s, when Cambodian refugees settled in the County after escaping the Cambodian genocide and war; and

WHEREAS, Santa Ana, specifically on Minnie Street, has an estimated 1,500 Cambodian constituents that have established a community outside of the neighboring counties with larger Cambodian communities, such as Los Angeles and San Diego; and

WHEREAS, Orange County has afforded unique opportunities to the Cambodian community to improve their health and well-being, as well as their American civic engagement and activism that has grown into an important aspect of the Cambodian American community within the County; and

WHEREAS, The Cambodian American community in the County have founded temples and community organizations, such as The Cambodian Family, to reconnect with lost family, produce visual and fine arts, own small businesses, and celebrate their traditional new year; and

WHEREAS, 2025 marks the 45th year anniversary of The Cambodian Family serving the residents of Santa Ana and Orange County with the mission to promote social health by providing refugee and immigrant families the opportunities to develop knowledge, skills, and desires for good health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, The Cambodian Family was established in the 1980s by five Cambodian refugees, alongside other dedicated community members, who could speak some English to provide free English classes, adjustment counseling, and emergency translations to their monolingual neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the organizations and services provided to our Cambodian residents have created a network and resilient community that strengthens the area by meeting essential needs, fostering connection, and building trust, resulting in a more resilient and united society; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS proclaim the Month of April 2025 as Cambodian Heritage Month to commemorate the contributions, achievements, and history of the Cambodian community across the nation and in the County of Orange.