

# County of Santa Clara

## Office of the Board of Supervisors

County Government Center, East Wing  
70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor  
San Jose, California 95110  
(408) 299-2323  
FAX 298-8460 TDD 993-8272



James T. Beall, Jr.  
Supervisor, Fourth District

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
VAN PARISH  
408 299 3924

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### Santa Clara County Supervisor Jim Beall Meets with National Leaders At White House Summit on Children Exposed to Violence

SAN JOSE, California—Today, Santa Clara County Supervisor Jim Beall is in Washington D.C. to meet with President Clinton, Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and 150 of the nation's most renowned experts in the fields of law enforcement, social services and child development to draft a National Action Plan to address the needs of child crime victims and witnesses.

In the wake of the numerous tragic events that took place on schoolyards last year, President Clinton launched the Children Exposed to Violence Initiative. The Initiative focuses public attention on the abuse and violence that devastates the lives of children. The Initiative is designed to work in partnership with families, communities, Federal, State and local governments, law enforcement and social service agencies. As part of the Initiative, the White House directed the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services to convene the Summit with a goal of developing strategies and implementation methodologies.

Supervisor Beall was selected to participate in the Summit because of his outstanding work in the area of violence prevention. Since joining the Board of Supervisors, Beall has spearheaded Santa Clara County's creation of a Violence Prevention Action Plan and serves as co-chair of the Violence Prevention Council. As a San Jose City Councilmember, Beall served as co-chair of the San Jose Child Care Task Force.

"I am honored to participate in this most important dialogue at such a critical time" said Beall from the Summit. "For years, families, community organizations and government have worked separately to try to address the causes and effects of youth violence. This Summit is an opportunity for child protective service providers, law

enforcement agencies, mental and physical health care practitioners, school officials domestic violence advocates and government officials to get together in one room and develop a plan of action.”

*Safe From the Start: The National Summit on Children Exposed to Violence* started today and will conclude on Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup> with a panel discussion with President Clinton.

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