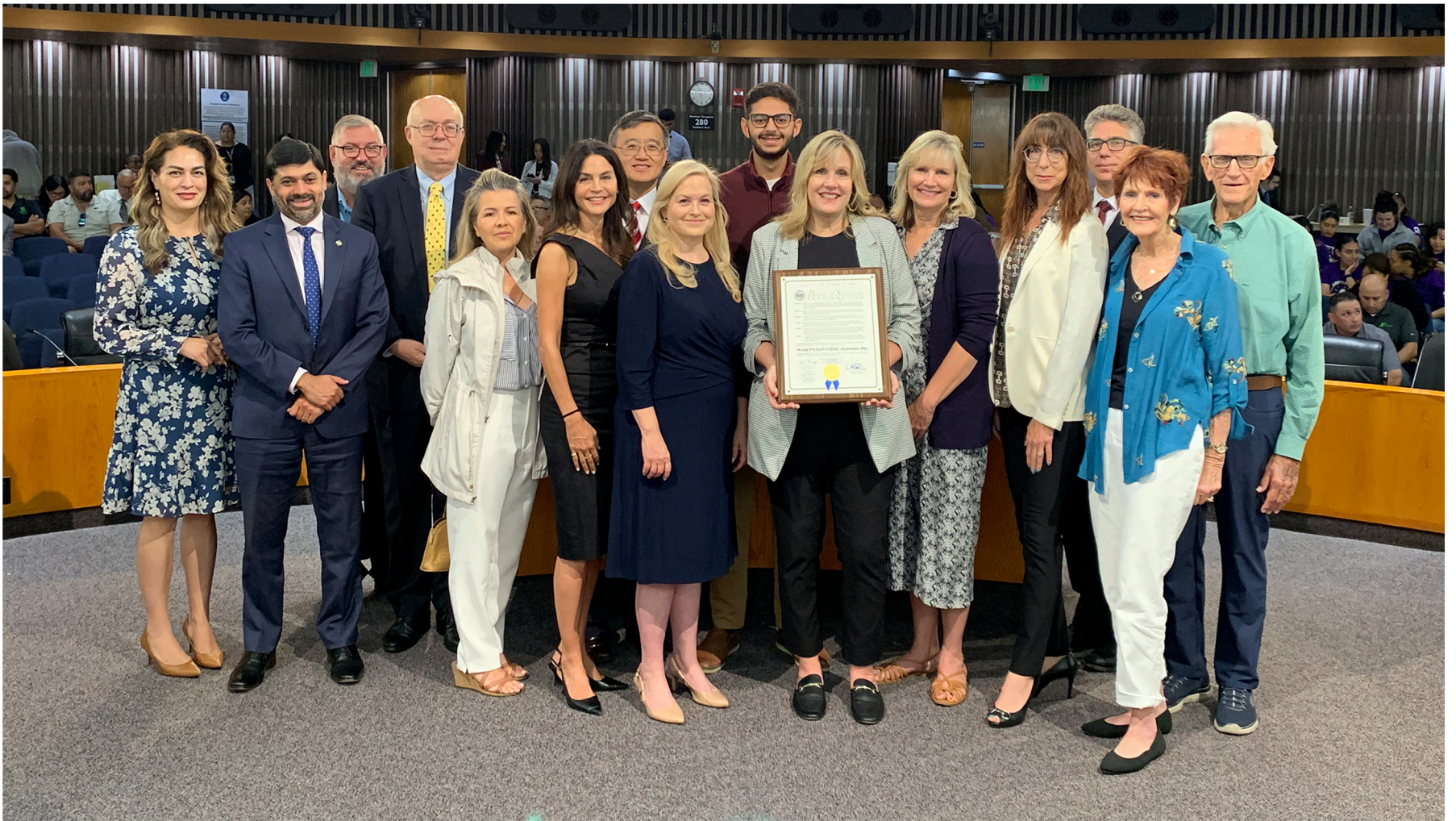


# EAST BAY TIMES

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## COUNTY SHINES A LIGHT:

Sal Pizarro - October 16, 2024



If you were near the Santa Clara County Government Center on Hedding Street last Wednesday night, you might have wondered why the building was illuminated in green. It's because the county's headquarters were among more than 100 landmarks and bridges that were part of the #LightUp4PANS campaign to draw attention to two little-known conditions that afflict young people.

World PANS/PANDAS Awareness Day isn't about cookware or cute animals but Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS). These life-altering conditions — triggered by infections such as strep throat and the flu — affect thousands around the world and can cause sudden, severe changes in behavior and neurological function.

San Jose resident Terry Downing's adolescent daughter was stricken by the condition in 2011 and she said that a misdiagnosis for 10 months delayed care that could have saved her from brain damage and life in a group home.

"A lot of progress has been made since then and we have a long way to go," Downing, vice president of PRx Digital, said during last week's Board of Supervisors meeting about efforts to bring awareness to the issue. She said she hopes AB 2105 — passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Newsom last month — would make early diagnosis and treatment possible and save families from the trauma hers has gone through.



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