



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: January 25, 2022

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,
Recognizing Bill Bowker For His Outstanding Career As A Beloved And Enduring Radio
Personality And Many Years Of Service To The Community.**

Whereas, Bill Bowker, Sonoma County’s beloved and enduring radio personality, known for being “all about the blues,” stepped away from the mic at Santa Rosa’s KRSH December 15, 2021 on his 78th birthday; and

Whereas, Mr. Bowker was born in 1943 in Pasaic, New Jersey, and grew up in suburban Glen Rock, New Jersey where he described himself as an upper-middle-class white kid who discovered the gritty sound of the blues when it was still considered taboo by some; and

Whereas, Mr. Bowker attended the Don Martin School of Radio & Television Arts & Sciences, where he earned, not only a diploma, but also a license to go on the air; and

Whereas, his first radio job was at an all-night country music station, KUDU, in Ventura, and when that station went to an automated format, he moved to KBBY, an underground, “free-form” FM station, which set the tone for the rest of his career; and

Whereas, Mr. Bowker moved next to KWST in Los Angeles, managed by John Detz. Mr. Detz moved to KROQ and when he and his then KROQ partner, Cindy Paulos, bought KVRE in Santa Rosa in 1979, Mr. Bowker joined them and became a mainstay of Sonoma County broadcasting; and

Whereas, Mr. Bowker has worked at half a dozen local radio stations since moving to Sonoma County including KPLS, KAFE and even KRVE, before landing at KRSH, better known as “KRUSH,” in 1994 where he has worked for the last 27 years; and

Whereas, he’s been in the business 42 years as a Sonoma County broadcaster, usually working afternoons and taking his weekly “Blues With Bowker” show with him from station to station; and

Whereas, Mr. Bowker is also active as a concert promoter, band booker, agent, and was the force behind the now disbanded Sonoma County Blues Society and plans to continue on XRDS.fm online, based in Clarksdale, Mississippi, home to the legendary crossroads thought to be the birthplace on the blues; and

Whereas, Mr. Bowker has also given back greatly to the community by mentoring young musicians, including guitarist Doyle Bramhall II, singer-songwriter David Luning and rising blues star and Alligator Records artist Christone “Kingfish” Ingram.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma do hereby recognize the outstanding contributions and celebrate the radio career of Blues Crusader Bill Bowker.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Rabbitt: Coursey: Hopkins: Gore:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.