



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: August 21, 2019

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Recognizing And Honoring D. George L. Ortiz, For His More Than 50 Years Of Service To Underserved Communities

Whereas, the long and distinguished career of Dr. George Ortiz has been guided by his commitment to aiding underserved, Spanish-speaking communities, beginning with his first job after college as a social worker to founding and leading a grassroots alliance and non-profit social service agency; and

Whereas, Dr. Ortiz has worked tirelessly as a social activist, building bridges between County social service offices and the growing farmworker and Spanish-speaking Latino community; and

Whereas, in collaboration with his colleagues, Dr. Ortiz founded in 1966 Latinos Unidos of Sonoma County, a non-profit group that granted college scholarships, advocated for low-income, working families, and which is still serving a wide range of needs in the immigrant community; and

Whereas, in 1967, Dr. Ortiz founded the non-profit organization now called the California Human Development Corporation of Santa Rosa, delivering job training, housing, recovery and other services for the underserved, farmworkers, day laborers and people with disabilities; and

Whereas, under his leadership as President and CEO of the California Human Development Corporation, Dr. Ortiz grew these services to over 25,000 people in 31 Northern and Central California counties; and

Whereas, Dr. Ortiz has been devoted to community service and has served with the finance and membership committees for the Roman Catholic diocese of Santa Rosa, advisory member of Consejo Latino de Kaiser at Kaiser Permanent in Santa Rosa, and advisory board member for Sonoma County on the Wells Fargo Community Reinvestment Act; and

Whereas, throughout his career, Dr. Ortiz has served as Chair of the National Center for Appropriate Technology, Chairman and executive board member of Latinos Unidos del Condado de Sonoma in Santa Rosa, Chair of the Western Alliance Farmworkers Advocates, Inc. and Chair of New Horizons Technologies, Inc.; and

Whereas, Dr. Ortiz has been a lifelong learner, having earned his bachelors degree in social science, studied at the University of Tübingen while serving with the U.S. Army in West Germany, studied legal coursework at Hastings Law School in San Francisco, and earned the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Sonoma State University; and

Whereas, An American with Mexican heritage, Dr. Ortiz was granted one of the highest recognitions from the Mexican government, the Ohtli award granted to Latino leaders who make significant contributions to Mexican communities outside the country; and

Whereas, Dr. Ortiz has made a lasting difference in the lives of thousands throughout his distinguished career as an activist and community leader; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the county of Sonoma recognizes and honors Dr. George L. Ortiz for his military service to his county and his extensive community service to our community and social justice.

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Zane:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.