



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: March 12, 2019

Item Number: _____
Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, Honoring and Commending Ben Stone on the Occasion of his Retirement for 33 Years of Distinguished Public Service as Director of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board

Whereas, Ben Stone was appointed to the Sonoma County Economic Development Board (EDB) as director in 1986 and has over the past three decades led the development of innovative programs and resources to support small businesses and grow our local economy; and

Whereas, Mr. Stone has spearheaded the development of such programs as a county-wide tourism program; the establishment of a new school of Science and Engineering at SSU; the first joint marketing effort for wine, grape, and agriculture sectors; and an economic research and forecasting program that informs the Economic Development Board and local policy makers;

Whereas, Mr. Stone has served as an invaluable mentor to many interns, developing an extensive EDB intern program, providing participants from across the country with an orientation to our county government and personally extending himself to welcome them to Sonoma County and the field of public service; and

Whereas, the efforts of Mr. Stone in growing programs like Creative Sonoma, Sonoma County Restaurant Week, and the Beer, Cider, Spirits Conference have elevated our creative, artisanal food and craft beverage industries as well as other emerging sectors; and

Whereas, Mr. Stone officially retires on April 30, 2019 having served with distinction throughout his career with EDB. Mr. Stone is well known as a man who gets things done, bringing together diverse leaders from around the community to address common business problems and surrounding himself with incredibly talented and energetic staff; he has provided a dynamic service to both residents and the business community of Sonoma County through his many contributions and achievements over the past thirty years; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors hereby honors and commends Ben Stone for his 33 years of distinguished service to the people of Sonoma County as Director of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Further Resolved that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors wishes Mr. Stone well in his retirement and expresses their sincere appreciation for his many years of forward thinking and to use one of Mr. Stone's quotes "Why would you settle for normal when you can have extraordinary?" the Board will very much miss Mr. Stone's extraordinary leadership. Onward and upward!

Resolution #

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Supervisors:

Gorin:

Zane:

Hopkins:

Gore:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.