



# County of Sonoma

## State of California

Date: June 9, 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 Russ Burns on the Occasion of His Retirement from the  
Operating Engineers Local 3 after 40 Years of Dedicated Service**

**Whereas,** On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Russ Burns retires from the Operating Engineers Local 3 after 40 years of dedicated service, 25 of those years in a leadership position; and

**Whereas,** Operating Engineers Local 3 is the largest construction trades local in the U.S., representing over 35,000 members across their four-state jurisdiction of California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah and includes heavy equipment operators and mechanics, surveyors, construction inspectors, highway maintenance workers, police officers and other public employees, proudly representing the men and women who drive this country's economy; and

**Whereas,** Mr. Burns is a third-generation operator and Local 3 member who began his career with Local 3 in 1979 as a crane operator who moved into a staff career with Local 3 in 1994 as a business representative in the Fairfield District, in 1996 he was promoted to special representative responsible for the crane industry, in 1997 he was promoted to special representative responsible for the dredging industry, in 1999 he became the Santa Rosa district representative, and then transferred to the Fairfield District where he as district representative and trustee for six months transferring to Sacramento in 2002; and

**Whereas,** in 2000 Mr. Burns graduated from the Harvard Trade Union Program, in 2001 he was appointed to the Cal-Osha Standards Board Subcommittee for Certification of Crane Operators, in 2002 he served as district representative and special representative to the

business manager in Sacramento until his appointment as treasurer by unanimous officer vote serving in this position until 2005 when he was sworn in as financial secretary, Mr. Burns was elected as business manager by the membership in 2006 and retires from Operating Engineers Local 3 from this position of trust and responsibility; and

**Whereas,** Under Mr. Burns leadership he faced the challenge of the recession of 2008, in the wake of the 2017 Fire Storms he approved training for hundreds of local workers in HAZMAT protocol to assist with the cleanup and recovery of what was at that time California's largest disaster cleanup, he approved tens of thousands of dollars donated to the Redwood Credit Union Fire Victims Fund, met with CALOES and Governor Brown advocating for local hire provisions and the highest labor and safety standards for the workers who performed HAZMAT cleanup on the North Bay Fires, his strong championship of Senate Bill 1, on behalf of Local 3, was instrumental in obtaining over \$5 Billion annually in funding for the State of California – including Sonoma County roads and bridges;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors recognizes and honors Russ Burns on the occasion of his retirement from the Operating Engineers Local 3 after 40 years of dedicated service.

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors wishes Mr. Burns well in his retirement, and thanks him particularly for his work on with Local 3 in our Sonoma County 2017 Fire Storm recovery efforts.

**Supervisors:**

Gorin:                      Zane:                      Gore:                      Hopkins:                      Rabbitt:

Ayes:                      Noes:                      Absent:                      Abstain:

**So Ordered.**