



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: August 6, 2019

Item Number: _____
Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Honoring Gary Edwards as the 2019 Muse for Sonoma Valley

WHEREAS, the Sonoma Community Center annually honors a local notable as its muse and then celebrates that person with a creative, festive event. The designation of “Muse” pays homage to people and personalities who have made the Sonoma Valley such a remarkable place, steeped in history, character and natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Sonoma Community Center is to enrich the lives of the people of Sonoma Valley by fostering a broad range of cultural, educational, and community services and by ensuring the preservation and restoration of its historic building; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Sonoma Community Center chose Gary Edwards as the 2019 Sonoma Valley Muse given the staggering contributions he has made to the Community Center’s creative programs and also numerous other worthy causes in the Sonoma Valley community; and

WHEREAS, Gary, like any good Muse, much prefers standing in the background, whispering encouragement and inspiration into people’s ears, doing the unglamorous behind the scenes things that produce creative change; and

WHEREAS, growing up in a “cheese-less” household, Gary followed a circuitous path from an entrepreneurial school boy, organizing friends in hometown Sebastopol to pick apples so he could make a little money on the margins, to working as the cheese buyer for G & G market and then eventually founding Sage Marketing, brokering cheese from around the world; and

WHEREAS, as a young man of 16 years old, Gary chose to not follow his family on their move to Willits, and instead stayed in Sonoma County, worked hard at a variety of odd jobs and bought his own house, a mobile home at 18; and

WHEREAS, valuing and focusing on relationships all around the world, getting to know the owners and the cheesemakers, Gary put like-minded people together and grew Sage Marketing; and

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WHEREAS, Gary was looking for a “village” that felt like home, and he bought a house in the Sonoma Valley in 1994 and promptly became a stalwart of the Rotary Club, joined the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission, served on the Rotary Park Food Bank, and cooked turkey dinners for the Community Center and Vintage House Thanksgiving celebrations for more than 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Gary was also appointed to the Sonoma Planning Commission, than ran for and was elected to the Sonoma City Council, and is a founding member of Cittaslow Sonoma and an Angel Award recipient from the Sonoma Valley Boys & Girls Club.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma honors Gary Edwards on being named the 2019 Muse for the Sonoma Valley.

Supervisor Susan Gorin

Supervisor David Rabbitt

Supervisor Shirlee Zane

Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

Supervisor James Gore, Chair