



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: November 1, 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 as Recipient of North Bay Leadership Council's
2019 Leaders of the North Bay Murray Legacy Leadership Award**

Whereas, for thirty-three years, Ben Stone has been the driving force transforming the Economic Development Board (EDB) from being solely a business attraction entity into a highly effective agency known for enabling local businesses to better prosper and endure; and

Whereas, Ben has convened forward thinking, top-level task forces to develop unique programs and has delivered a wealth of information which simplified the process of assisting businesses to succeed by offering a broad range of direct support and tools; and

Whereas, Ben is a “big picture” visionary who, when studying compelling issues or General Plan updates, turned goal statements into viable programs, developed projects which attracted millions of dollars in federal and state grants to further economic growth and recovery; and

Whereas, Ben’s many “firsts” include developing Sonoma Select; the nation’s first countywide ag-marketing program; using input from 21 commodity groups aligning efforts to increase marketing and penetration of local produce into new Sonoma County and Bay Area markets, as well as guiding the EDB in the formation of the nation’s first all-volunteer Small Business Center with professors from Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University counseling small businesses – its success lead to an SBA-funded Small Business Development Center at the EDB; and

Resolution #

Date:

Page 2

Whereas, Due to Ben's vision and diligence, the EDB is one of the few agencies in the state to have twice won California's highest award for economic development, first for its tourism program and second for its post-wildfire Shop Local campaign.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors does honor and commend Ben Stone as recipient of North Bay Leadership Council's 2019 Leaders of the North Bay Murray Legacy Leadership Award which recognizes his lifetime of leadership.

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Zane:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.