



# County of Sonoma

## State of California

Date: October 6, 2020

Item Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution Number: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,  
recognizing Karen Fies' more than 34 years of service with the Sonoma County Human  
Services Department.**

**Whereas,** Karen began her career with the Sonoma County Human Services Department in 1986 as an eligibility worker, subsequently promoting through the ranks of the Employment and Training division to the division director position; and

**Whereas,** in April 1999, Karen was selected as the County's first management intern in a newly created fellowship program at the County Administrator's Office; and

**Whereas,** in October 2012, Karen was promoted to the Interim Assistant Director of Human Services position, becoming the permanent Assistant Director in April 2013; and

**Whereas,** in September 2016, Karen was appointed as Director of the Human Services Department, tasked with furthering the Department's goals to protect vulnerable children and adults, and promote maximum independence and well-being for individuals and families; and

**Whereas,** Karen served the community on a number of boards, commissions, and policy boards including the State's Master Plan for Aging, the United Way of the Wine Country, the Career Technical Education Foundation, Upstream Investments, Health Action, First 5, the Workforce Investment Board, and the Community Corrections Partnership; and

**Whereas,** Karen was integral in developing Sonoma County's Welfare Reform policies, founding the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps, transitioning to the Affordable Care Act, transitioning Foster Care to the Continuum of Care, and opening the first neighborhood service center in Petaluma; and

**Whereas**, during her time as Director, Karen led the department through three major wildfires, a flood, and the coronavirus pandemic with resilience and compassion. Through her leadership during multiple disasters, she ensured that the Human Services Department provided excellent care and services to the community as it endured unprecedented challenges; and

**Whereas**, Karen will be remembered for her passion for public service and her care for the community, her support and dedication to her employees, her generous and calm demeanor, and her advice to always “have courage and be kind”;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that this Board of Supervisors honors Karen Fies for her almost 35 years of outstanding service to the people of Sonoma County and wishes her every happiness during her well-earned retirement.

**Supervisors:**

Rabbitt:

Zane:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Gorin:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

**So Ordered.**