



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: November 17, 2020

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Awarding The 2020 Carroll L. Estes Older Adults Advocacy Award To Crista Barnett Nelson

Whereas, Crista Barnett Nelson is the Executive Director of the Senior Advocacy Services in Sonoma County; and

Whereas, Senior Advocacy Services' three programs, Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), Elder Justice Initiative, and Long Term Care Ombudsman, all work to advocate for the rights and dignity of those experiencing health and aging challenges; and

Whereas, the Long Term Care Ombudsman advocates for the rights of over 5,000 seniors living in the nearly 200 long-term care facilities in Sonoma County; and

Whereas, along with the more than 1000 complaints that the Ombudsman program responds to every year, their work has been significantly impacted by national and local disasters; and

Whereas, during the most recent Glass Fire in Sonoma County, Crista heard about the dire need of long term care facilities being evacuated to shelters with no place to go. At 3 o'clock in the morning she rushed to the shelters to help devise a plan with the facilities to best keep their vulnerable population safe. She kept at it for days until every resident had an alternative option; and

Whereas, COVID-19 has impacted every community, but arguably has had the worst impact in long-term care facilities where we've seen an extreme disproportion of deaths. Sonoma County is no exception. Crista has been steadfast in her advocacy and efforts to help find solutions. She has met with the owners of these facilities, participated in county-wide workgroups and taskforces, provided letters to elected and state officials, and made countless calls advocating for change and offering herself as a resource. Almost all of these actions are above and beyond her regular duties; and

Whereas, Crista is a fierce and extremely caring advocate and her tireless efforts truly make a difference to the quality of life and care for the people living in these facilities.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma Awards the 2020 Carroll L. Estes Older Adults Advocacy Award to Crista Barnett Nelson.

Supervisors:

Rabbitt:

Zane:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Gorin:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.