



# County of Sonoma

## State of California

Date: September 14, 2021

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

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Sonoma, State of California,  
Honoring Priscilla Essert on her Retirement as Executive Director from  
Vintage House Senior Center in Sonoma**

**WHEREAS**, a former East Coaster Priscilla Essert lived in Sonoma five years and worked as the program officer at the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County before becoming Executive Director of the Vintage House Senior Center in November 2017 bringing a wealth of diverse experience, working knowledge of professional Spanish, energy and imagination; and

**WHEREAS**, Priscilla's vision and commitment led Vintage House—the only organization dedicated to serving Sonoma Valley residents as they age—into a new and revitalized chapter, making it extraordinary, enriching the lives of Sonoma seniors in countless ways, and positioned the organization to thrive in its service for the next generation of seniors; and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure Priscilla broadened programming at the organization, developed collaborative efforts with other organizations and nonprofits in the community that did not exist previously, brought on music series, food programs and built productive relationships with donors and philanthropists; and

**WHEREAS**, Vintage House now has a series of health talks with Sonoma Valley Hospital, works with Pet's Lifeline to provide pets to seniors who need companionship, displays art from the Boys and Girls Club, gets produce from Sweetwater Spectrum, hosts concerts with the Jazz Society, has a patch at the Ecology Center's garden park and hosts support groups for the Parkinson's Association and the Alzheimer's Association; and

**WHEREAS**, Priscilla was instrumental in bringing on a full-time accountant and HR manager, a marketing and development vision, a functional website and a donor and member database system, brought transparency to communications by publishing the first-ever annual report and started a weekly email newsletter to the community with lively video updates; and

**WHEREAS**, Priscilla strengthened and diversified the board: recruiting five new members in 2020 to fill skill gaps in human resources, marketing, and event planning, revived once-inactive committees, invested in board training, and streamlined processes for recordkeeping and communication; and

**WHEREAS**, other contributions include being a part of the Sonoma County Community Foundation Cohort 2, working jointly with Friends in Sonoma Helping (F.I.S.H.) on a transportation project and development of "Soup's On!" food program whose success led to "Supper's On!" a Wednesday evening communal meal; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to COVID-19, Priscilla moved quickly to put a heightened focus on food distribution, moved classes to a virtual format and trained seniors to access them, arranged a \$5,000 donation from a donor and secured matching funds from board president, Soup's On! and Supper's On! moved to curbside pickup, volunteers shopped and delivered groceries and prescriptions, calls continued to go out to isolated seniors and when vaccines became available, staff partnered with Sonoma Valley Hospital and the Sonoma Valley Community Health Center to identify and help seniors without internet securing hundreds of vaccination appointments; and

**WHEREAS**, Priscilla's leadership style is described as authentic, dedicated, inspiring, a mentor who instinctively knows when to be hands on and hands off, where to let people make mistakes and let folks learn, she poses a collaborative spirit and her desire to promote success for all nonprofits is admirable; and

**WHEREAS**, coworkers and community partners alike wish Priscilla and her husband Bill the best as they move to Angels Camp, California to be closer to children and grandchildren.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma do hereby Congratulate Priscilla Essert on her Retirement from Vintage House Senior Center in Sonoma.

**Supervisors:**

Gorin:                      Rabbitt:                      Coursey:                      Gore:                      Hopkins:

Ayes:                      Noes:                      Absent:                      Abstain:

**So Ordered.**