

**Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the
County of Monterey, State of California**

Resolution No.:

Adopt Resolution to Honor **Melvin “Mel” T. Mason** Upon the Occasion of His Retirement from Service as Co-Founder and Clinical Director of The Village Project, Inc. and as an Expression of Appreciation for His Lifetime of Service to the Community.

WHEREAS, Melvin “Mel” T. Mason moved to the City of Seaside with his mother as a thirteen-year-old in September 1956 and was one of the most acclaimed basketball players in the history of Monterey High School and Monterey Peninsula College, so acclaimed that it led to his induction into the California Community College Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, **Melvin “Mel” T. Mason** came to be recognized as a local, national, and international human and civil rights activist that helped lead many movements for social justice, including when he courageously stood against racism at Oregon State University, which resulted in him losing his scholarship and being banned from playing basketball in other universities, thus ending his basketball career; and

WHEREAS, Melvin “Mel” T. Mason joined the Black Panther Party and credits that organization for inspiring him to become a renown social worker, counselor, and therapist; and

WHEREAS, Melvin “Mel” T. Mason organized the first African American United Farmworkers Support Committee after meeting Cesar Chavez during the 1970 Great Lettuce Strike throughout most of Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, In addition to serving as an elected Seaside City Councilmember, 1980-1984, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, **Melvin “Mel” T. Mason** ran for Governor of California in 1982 and President of the United States in 1984; and

WHEREAS, In later years, **Melvin “Mel” T. Mason** became a Life Member of the NAACP and served three terms as President of its Monterey County Branch, co-founding and chairing the Civil Rights Coalition of Monterey County while leading fights against police brutality, attacks on unions and job discrimination; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, **Melvin “Mel” T. Mason** founded and chaired Citizens for MPC Redistricting which led a successful fight to abolish at-large voting in that district and installed trustee areas that has resulted in people of color being elected to its Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, **Melvin “Mel” T. Mason** and his wife Regina co-founded The Village Project, Inc., an award-winning African American-focused family resource center, headquartered in Seaside, CA that has helped countless adults, families and children; and

WHEREAS, Melvin “Mel” T. Mason continues to pay tribute to his parents and the many historical African American Seaside Elders on whose shoulders he proudly stands.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the County and all residents thereof, hereby adopts this resolution to honor **Melvin “Mel”**

T. Mason upon the occasion of his retirement from service as Co-Founder and Clinical Director of The Village Project, Inc. and as an expression of appreciation for his lifetime of service to country and community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book _____ for the meeting on _____, 2023.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California.

By _____
Deputy