

Adopt a resolution commending Fire Chief Michael B.)
Urquides for thirty-four years of service to the Monterey)
County Regional Fire Protection District.....)

WHEREAS Fire Chief Urquides started his career in the fire service as a Seasonal Firefighter with the California Department of Forestry in the summer of 1987 in the Monterey/San Benito Ranger Unit, King City Station; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Urquides gained employment as a Volunteer Firefighter with the Salinas Rural Fire Protection District of Monterey County on January 12, 1989, promoted to Hoseman on February 1, 1990, promoted to Lieutenant on April 1, 1992, promoted to Fire Captain on November 1, 1995, promoted to Division Chief on February 1, 2002, and on May 16, 2006 was appointed by the Board of Directors to Fire Chief of the District; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Urquides worked with many department heads and employees of the County of Monterey including the Board of Supervisors, County CAO, County Sheriff's Office, County Health Department, County OES, County EMS, County RMA-Planning and Building, County Public Works, County Assessor, County Auditor, County Legal Counsel, County Treasurer, County Elections, and the Natividad Medical Center to coordinate, collaborate and communicate issues and solutions to numerous situations that affected the Fire District and or the County of Monterey.

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Urquides accomplishments are vast including: Introducing Advanced Life Support capabilities to all MCRFD Fire Stations; Construction of the Administration Offices, Toro Station Expansion and ADA compliance, Village Station remodel, Mid Valley Station ADA compliance, East Garrison Fire Station, Chualar Station remodel; Consolidation of the Monterey County Regional Fire District and the Carmel Valley Fire District; Hiring or promoting sixty seven personnel; Annexation of Spreckels, Fort Ord, Chualar Canyon, Limekiln Road, Armstrong Ranch, and Carmel Valley Infill areas; Passage of Measure E (East Garrison), Measure F (Carmel Valley EMS), Measure H (Cannabis); Acquired millions of dollars in grant funding for personnel, equipment, and community fire prevention projects; and

WHEREAS Fire Chief Urquides protected the citizens of the District from major incidents including; Firestone Business Park exterior fire, Evolution Fire, Indian Springs Fire, Soberanes Fire, River Fire, Salinas River Floods of 1995 and 1997, River Fire debris flow, in addition to duty chief assignments of structure fires, vegetation fires, vehicle accidents, aviation accidents, hazardous materials incidents, medical aids and rescues; and

WHEREAS Fire Chief Urquides held numerous Incident Command System qualifications including; Type 1 Liaison Officer, Type 1 Safety Officer, Type 2 Public Information Officer, Training Specialist, Division Group Supervisor, Strike Team Leader, Task Force Leader, Field Observer and Display Processor. For fifteen years, he was a member of CALFIRE Incident Management Teams 5 and 6, holding a variety of ICS positions and working throughout the State of California; and

WHEREAS Fire Chief Urquides always emphasized formal education as a key to success. Chief Urquides holds an Associate of Science in Fire Science from Monterey Peninsula College, Bachelor of Arts in Human Relations from Golden Gate University, a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University and is a Certified Chief Officer from the California State Board of Fire Services; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Urquides held leadership positions with the following organizations: Monterey County Fire Training Officers, Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association, Monterey County Operational Area Grant Approval Authority, Monterey County Emergency Medical Care Committee, Fire Districts Association of California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in recognition of his retirement on December 30, 2021, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors commend Fire Chief Urquides for his thirty-four years of service to the communities of Monterey County and acknowledge that we live in a safer community because for his selfless efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Monterey County Board of Supervisors wish Fire Chief Michael B. Urquides a long, healthy, and well-deserved retirement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors on this 25th day of January 2022.