

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

Resolution No.:

Adopt Resolution Recognizing the 100 Year Anniversary of the County of Monterey Health Department, Celebrating the Past, Present, and Future of Public Health in Monterey County.

WHEREAS, In 1923, the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors accepted a Rockefeller Foundation grant for \$5,000 and provided a local match of \$5,000 to create and maintain a model health department. This funding established the Health Department as an official entity, staffed by two public health nurses, a health inspector, a stenographer, and a county health officer, to focus on mother and child health, prevention and treatment of diseases, and food safety; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Health Department has a budget \$370 million and 1,200 staff who provide services and programming focused on disease and injury prevention, communicable disease surveillance and response, chronic disease prevention, public and environmental health laboratory, emergency medical services, environmental health education and regulation, animal control and sheltering, primary care and behavioral health services, public administrator and conservator/guardian, and population health and racial and health equity efforts; and

WHEREAS, In the past 100 years, advancements have been made in public health practice and science prioritizing policy changes and expansion of services which have contributed to 25-year increase in life expectancy, and improved quality of life for individuals. The Health Department advances community engagement and leadership development opportunities for individuals to be empowered to make healthier choices for themselves and loved ones, and to advocate for environmental changes that make it easier for all to achieve their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that life expectancy is affected by where one lives. A recognition that historical disinvestment in communities of color was the impetus for the Health Department to champion Health in All Policies centered on authentic community engagement to drive changes in policies and systems within the Department, County, and local municipalities, resulted in the County Health Department being recognized as The California Endowment's Arnold X. Perkins Awardee for Outstanding Health Equity Practice in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Departmental efforts to conduct a community health needs assessment, develop community health improvement and strategic plans, implementation of staff training, policy development and adoption, development of quality improvement and performance management systems and culture, resulted in the County Health Department receiving national Public Health Accreditation in 2018 as the 12th County Health Department in California to be awarded this recognition; and

WHEREAS, The County Health Department has been integral in local emergency response efforts to recent natural disasters including fires and floods supporting residents with access to community supports and assuring health and safety of areas prior to repopulation; and served as the lead in the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic through surveillance, case management, contact tracing, community help line, vaccination and treatment efforts to minimize impact on healthcare system and preserve life; and

WHEREAS, Looking towards the future, the County Health Department will continue to advance policy changes and strategies that enhance, protect, and improve the health of Monterey County individuals, families, communities, and the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the County and all residents thereof, hereby recognizes the 100 Year Anniversary of the County Health Department and calls upon its residents, public and private organizations, and local officials to continue to partner with the County Health Department to create a healthier and just Monterey County by learning more about opportunities to engage in health policy discussions; encouraging young people and others looking to make a career change to consider a career in public health; and investing public funds in disinvested communities and residents. Together we can make the County of Monterey a healthier and happier place to live, work, play, study, and pray.

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