

**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 initial funding in the amount of \$10,000 established the Health Department as an official entity in the County of Monterey organization, staffed by two public health nurses, a health inspector, a stenographer, and a county health officer; and

WHEREAS, In the early days of the County Health Department, the dedicated staff focused on mother and child health, prevention and treatment of diseases such as measles, tuberculosis, and diphtheria, and food safety, but today, with a budget of over \$370 million and over 1,200 employees, the County Health Department is able to provide services across a large variety of programs including 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, and population health and racial and health equity efforts; and

WHEREAS, In the past hundred years, major advancements have been made in public health practice and science resulting in expansion of services provided by the County Health Department which has led to an increase in life expectancy and quality of life for residents of Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, The County Health Department believes it is critical to advance community engagement and leadership development opportunities for residents to be empowered to make healthier choices for themselves and loved ones, and to advocate for environments and supports that make it easier for everyone to achieve their unique fullest potential, and to provide programs educating residents and policymakers of Monterey County on healthy living, nutrition, diabetes prevention, food safety, infant care, mental health awareness, vaccinations, tobacco policy and community engagement; and

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

WHEREAS, Departmental efforts to conduct a community health needs assessment, develop a community health improvement and strategic plan, implement staff training, policy development and adoption, develop 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 strategies that enhance, protect, and improve the health of Monterey County individuals, families, communities, and environment. The current topics and issues may change, the population will change, and the County Health Department will continue to provide programs and resources on how to make our communities healthier.

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