

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT FOR ESSENTIAL
EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES OR WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

WHEREAS, in the United States of America, our essential workers have been the backbone of our society, especially during the trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, essential workers risk their lives in public health emergencies and natural disasters to serve our communities; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 1.1 million essential workers in the Bay Area of California; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 37.8 percent of essential workers who report having some form of a disability in the state of California; and

WHEREAS, essential workers with disabilities played an important role in keeping residents of the County of San Mateo safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, essential workers with disabilities also played a critical role in helping our communities during the 2023 Bay Area Storms; and

WHEREAS, many essential employees with disabilities or who are visually impaired work through disability service providers that provide training, job coaches, transportation, and any other needed support to help those employees perform essential work; and

WHEREAS, the essential work conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic included work performed in supermarkets, grocery stores and other food service establishments; manufacturing and delivery of thousands of critical products needed by County of San Mateo residents, which included, but was not limited to, personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer, cleaning products, disinfectants, first aid kits, examination gloves, face shields, and bathroom tissue; and

WHEREAS, janitorial and maintenance work that provides deep cleaning and disinfecting services continues to be essential to locations such as hospitals, government buildings, transportation hubs and vehicles, and other locations where first responders and essential workers perform their work; and

WHEREAS, the essential work conducted during the 2023 Bay Area storms included work taking immediate action to save lives, preserving property, and providing humanitarian care. These essential workers evacuated affected areas, set up shelters, restored power, repaired critical infrastructure, and delivered food, medicine, and other supplies; and

WHEREAS, essential workers have been helping with the economic and social recovery related to the storms this winter, helping to address housing, health, and social services needs and assisting in rebuilding communities; and

WHEREAS, the essential employees with disabilities who perform these jobs play a central and invaluable role in protecting the residents of the County of San Mateo, continuing the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and assisting our communities in emergencies; and

WHEREAS, essential employees with disabilities have continued to perform their regular duties and more, are vital to the economy of the County of San Mateo, were essential before the COVID-19 pandemic, and will continue to be essential after the COVID-19 pandemic has passed into history; and

WHEREAS, these jobs provide greater independence and economic security for people with disabilities, which is also vital to the fulfillment of the individuals who perform them; and

WHEREAS, while others can safely perform work remotely, these loyal and dependable public servants continue to provide essential services to the residents of the County of San Mateo; and

WHEREAS, employers as well as residents across the County of San Mateo should celebrate essential employees with disabilities by taking a moment to say thank you to those workers in their community;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo recognizes the essential work performed by individuals with disabilities or who are visually impaired and appreciates and thanks essential employees with disabilities or who are visually impaired for their efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the storms, and the vital contributions to the County of San Mateo that they have made in the past and will make in the future.

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