



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Board of Supervisors



DATE: May 28, 2013
BOARD MEETING DATE: June 4, 2013
SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING: None
VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Supervisor Dave Pine
SUBJECT: Rescission of a resolution honoring William Ayres

RECOMMENDATION:

Rescind the resolution honoring William Ayres that was adopted on January 15, 2002.

BACKGROUND:

On January 15, 2002, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution honoring William Ayres for, among other things, his achievement in the field of psychiatry and service on the Children and Families First Commission. The resolution adopted by the Board concluded by citing what was then believed to be "his tireless effort to improve the lives of children and adolescents in San Mateo County."

In 2007 criminal charges were filed against Ayres for molesting children and adolescents under his care. The District Attorney's Office knows of upwards of 50 alleged victims of Ayres, some going back to the 1960s, and there very well may be many more. On May 16, 2013, Ayres admitted to the child molestation charges filed against him. Sentencing is scheduled to occur on August 6th. The conviction concludes a case that has stretched over six years and has included three trials.

DISCUSSION:

William Ayres' actions are abhorrent and have caused great harm to his victims and their families. The County should not leave in place the resolution honoring Ayres in light of his conviction for abusing children and adolescents that he was supposed to help. Rescinding the resolution honoring Ayres is important to the victims and their families. Rescinding the resolution is also necessary to preserve the integrity of honorary awards given to others by the Board.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None