

RESOLUTION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING

Bernestine Benton

WHEREAS, BERNESTINE BENTON was born in the town of Delhi, Louisiana, and eventually ventured coast to coast - to become a proud Cal Bear, graduating from the University of California Berkeley with a BA in Political Science, and then to study Labor Economics at Catholic University, Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, BERNESTINE BENTON joined the County of San Mateo as the Black Infant Health (BIH) Prenatal Advantage Program Coordinator in 1991, and was responsible for starting one of the original State BIH sites in California, to improve African-American maternal and infant health and to decrease health disparities and social inequities among Black women and children; and

WHEREAS, BERNESTINE BENTON has guided her team through multiple State transitions and model/curriculum updates and requirements while continuing to provide case management and supportive group services to hundreds of African-American women and their families; and

WHEREAS, BERNESTINE BENTON has supported and witnessed the long term impact of BIH services as two generations of African-American women in San Mateo County have welcomed healthy babies and have been empowered to achieve their life goals; and

WHEREAS, BERNESTINE BENTON has served on various boards addressing cultural awareness, health disparities and community empowerment, including the African-American Community Health Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, BERNESTINE BENTON followed in the footsteps of her mother, Missionary Teddie McKery, to become a tireless community leader and member of Havenscourt Community Church in Oakland and is the Administrator and Organizer for Young Voice Mission, an urban mission in East Oakland serving those in need spiritually and economically through housing, clothing, food and community resources; and

WHEREAS, BERNESTINE BENTON will be remembered for her passionate public service, collaborative management style, commitment to community partnership, exemplary leadership skills, dedication to health equity, and always keeping clients front and center of all program decisions; and

WHEREAS, BERNESTINE BENTON will now have more time to spend with her daughter Nicole, siblings, extended family and friends; traveling and exploring the world; continuing her service to community; rooting for her beloved Raiders; and enjoying her hobby of researching genealogy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County hereby honors **BERNESTINE BENTON**. We commend your dedication to the people of San Mateo County and your 26.5 years of outstanding public service that demonstrate your commitment to longer and better lives for our residents, as well as the health of the entire public.

Dated: July 24, 2018

SUPERVISORS:

DAVE PINE, PRESIDENT

CAROLE GROOM

DON HORSLEY

WARREN SLOCUM

DAVID CANEPA

Attest:

Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors