

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

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

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**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HARDSHIPS OF COVID-19 ON THE DISABLED, DECLARING SAN MATEO COUNTY A DISABILITY INCLUSIVE COUNTY, AND ENCOURAGING THE USE OF TELEWORK TOOLS**

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**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, some of the challenges that people with disabilities faced during the COVID-19 pandemic include the inability to wear masks due to health risks, the associated challenges of having to abide by health care visitor policies that exclude support persons, negative consequences resulting from social distancing - such as mental health struggles from isolation - and the lack of access to COVID-19 testing and testing sites; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the CEO of the World Institute on Disability, Marcie Roth, “of the 43% of COVID-19 deaths attributed to congregate facilities, almost 100% are disabled people”; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. census, 4.3 % of individuals, who are under the age of 65, have a disability; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Mateo Board of Supervisors passed a resolution last year to encourage telecommute options in order to improve air quality; and

**WHEREAS**, through the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth and telework tools have been recognized as vital support to the disabled community; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative for our County to continue to map the barriers and feasible adjustments that can be made to make the County of San Mateo more inclusive for residents with different kinds of disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Mateo has permitted the easy use of teleworking through virtual tools such as Microsoft Teams and such use of telework tools has been successful; and

**WHEREAS**, to be a disability-inclusive County is to ensure that all people with disabilities feel socially included and supported.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County recognizes the mental and physical hardships of COVID-19 on disabled residents - declaring San Mateo County a disability-inclusive county and encouraging the use of telework tools beyond the pandemic - to continue support for our disabled community, map out barriers, and promote more resources for all residents.

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