

# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

## RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR KAREN WHEELER, DEPUTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER FOR 26 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

WHEREAS, Karen Wheeler was born in Porterville, California where she lived with parents Bill and Marie Langston and attended local schools receiving her high school diploma from Monache High School. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminology from the California State University, Fresno; and

WHEREAS, in 1981 Karen began her Probation career at Madera County Probation as a Deputy Probation Officer and in October of 1983, she took a leap of faith and moved to Lompoc to begin her career with the Santa Barbara County Probation Department as a Deputy Probation Officer II. She worked in the Adult Supervision and Investigation Units in Lompoc and Santa Barbara respectively, and in the Juvenile Intake and Investigation Unit in Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, in April of 1988 Karen was promoted to Senior Deputy Probation Officer working in the Adult Investigations Unit in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, where she handled many high-profile cases. Karen was the recipient of the H. Thomas Guerry Award for Superior Performance in 1989. In that same year, she was assigned to the Personnel & Training Unit and quickly rose through the ranks, being promoted to Supervising Probation Officer in 1999, and in November 2002 promoted to Manager. The Personnel & Training Unit of the Probation Department is integral to the successful operations of the Department; managing new hire background and administrative investigations, ensuring the Department's compliance with State mandated training hours, Workers Compensation guidelines, and verifying that State and Federal regulations were met; and

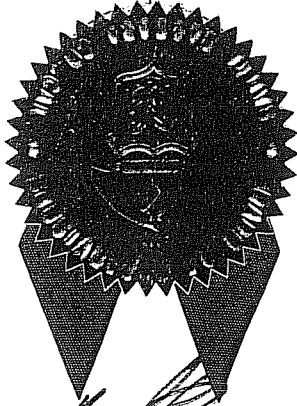
WHEREAS, in August 2006 she accepted a cross training opportunity and assumed the role of Manager for Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall and ultimately became project lead for the transition of the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall to a Booking Station. Karen's leadership and strategic implementation of the redirection of staff and resources to the expansion of the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall ensured an appropriate level of service to the Court and clients without a single staff layoff or formal complaint; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2008, Karen was promoted to Deputy Chief Probation Officer of the Adult Services Division and Personnel & Training Unit. In addition to her divisional responsibilities, she has represented the Chief on various committees, at press conferences, and Board of Supervisors and City Council Meetings. In April of 2009, Karen spent countless hours preparing and submitting a Byrne Competitive Grant application, which resulted in the Department being awarded over \$1 million to fund county-wide Targeted Gang Intervention services for two years, and the second year of a GPS Officer – to enhance supervision and services provided to probation clients with gang terms and conditions. Karen can best be described as a dedicated professional who has impeccable judgment, is absolutely trustworthy, and has been unquestionably loyal to the Santa Barbara Probation Department and its mission; and

WHEREAS, Karen looks forward to spending more time with her husband David, son Zach, her parents, and in-laws. She and David will continue to take bonsai classes and will re-enroll in their guitar lessons now that her Tuesday evenings are not booked with Executive meetings with the Chief. The Probation Department will miss Karen's exceptional professionalism, focused team work, and years of support and friendship. It is with best wishes that she begins her new "retirement project"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors recognizes Karen Wheeler for over 26 years of distinguished service to the citizens of Santa Barbara County and the Probation Department and wish her many happy years in retirement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 2010, by the unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
Clerk of the Board

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 1st District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 2nd District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 3rd District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 4th District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 5th District