

RESOLUTION NO. 26-6

RESOLUTION HONORING FIRE CHIEF MARK HARTWIG UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Chief Hartwig expanded paramedic services so all County fire stations could deliver advanced emergency medical care, integrating life-saving equipment and protocols elevating emergency medical services countywide; and

WHEREAS, he fostered interagency collaboration by uniting operational area fire chiefs and leading the completion and implementation of the Regional Fire Communications Center (RFCC), a state-of-the-art facility centralizing dispatch for all fire and medical 9-1-1 calls, ensuring rapid, seamless, and coordinated response across the County; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Fire Department demonstrated preparedness and excellence during major incidents, including the MV Conception tragedy in 2019, the Alisal Fire in 2021, and the Lake Fire of 2024, each requiring large-scale coordination, evacuation, and recovery efforts. He also successfully integrated the Office of Emergency Management into the Fire Department, enhancing Countywide preparedness and resilience. In addition, he helped establish the regional Incident Management Team during the COVID-19 pandemic and oversaw improvements to fire infrastructure, training, and community readiness; and

WHEREAS, Chief Hartwig championed firefighter mental health and wellness by expanding peer support programs, strengthening behavioral health resources, and fostering a culture prioritizing emotional resilience and psychological safety among first responders; and

WHEREAS, Chief Hartwig now looks forward to a well-deserved retirement, enjoying more quality time with his wife, Holly; his children, Tucker, Samantha, Noelle, and Jeremiah; his daughter-in-law, Hannah; and his granddaughter, Jane;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara does hereby honor and commend Chief Mark Hartwig for his distinguished service, outstanding leadership, and lasting contributions to public safety and the residents of Santa Barbara County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 13th day of January, 2026 by a unanimous vote of all members present.