



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION HONORING GEORGE CHAPJIAN UPON HIS RETIRMENT FROM THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

WHEREAS, George Chapjian is retiring as the Director of the Community Services Department after over 30 years of faithful, dedicated, and distinguished service to the community, and over 8 of those working directly for the County of Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, as the Director of the Community Services Department, George's unwavering and compassionate leadership through unprecedented times set a standard of excellence that others eagerly follow. His visionary leadership across County Parks, Housing & Community Development, Arts & Culture, Sustainability, and Libraries stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment, dedicated to building a thriving community for Santa Barbara County residents.

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Office of Arts and Culture was awarded a \$4.75 million grant from the California Arts Council for the Central Coast Region of the California Creative Corps including the counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Santa Cruz; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Parks division has significantly increased access to outdoor parks and recreation opportunities—an integral component for the health of residents and an economic driver for our communities. Including a successful partnership with cities and key stakeholders to advance the Countywide Park and Recreation Master Plan, as well as breaking ground on the Cachuma RV renovation project; and

WHEREAS, George championed efforts to bring Community Choice Energy to our region and helped establish the Tri-County Regional Energy Network with neighboring Counties of San Luis Obispo, bringing in resources to support the County's Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, George was instrumental in navigating housing issues, bringing unprecedented levels of Federal, State and local funding to address the homelessness and affordable housing crisis. Including Administration of the Rental Assistance Program, ARPA, and CARES Allocations for unsheltered and vulnerable populations; implementing the Roomkey Project: Homekey Real property acquisitions, which created livable units for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. His leadership directed over \$16 million for 527 affordable housing units and, during the pandemic, allocated \$52 million in Emergency Rent Assistance to 4,700 households and \$890,000 in Emergency Business Assistance to 55 local businesses; and

WHEREAS, George's retirement marks a new chapter filled with creativity, passion, and the enjoyment of life's simple pleasures, dedicating his time to restoring cars, sketching, and indulging in the art of watercolor painting; and spending quality time with his beloved wife Zoe and their children, Sako, Careen, and Aleena; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors honors and thanks George Chapjian for his years of dedicated service to the residents of Santa Barbara County and congratulates him upon his retirement.

PASS AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this fifth day of December 2023 by unanimous vote of all members present.



Pat Williams

Supervisor - 1st District

Liz Crum

Supervisor - 2nd District

Joan Hartman

Supervisor - 3rd District

Bob Weber

Supervisor - 4th District

Sydney

Supervisor - 5th District

ATTEST: *Monique*
Clerk of the Board