



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF RON WERFT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO COTTAGE HEALTH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WHEREAS, Ron Werft has served Cottage Health for 38 years, including 25 years as its President and CEO, guiding its growth from a local hospital to a regional healthcare system that provides exceptional care in specialties including trauma care, neurosciences, cardiology, orthopedics, pediatrics, and psychiatry; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Werft's leadership, Cottage Health completed significant infrastructure projects, including the complex 20-year rebuild of Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, the construction of a new Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital, and the expansion of services at Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital, all while maintaining continuous patient care; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Werft's vision led to the establishment of the Cottage Center for Population Health, the Cottage Health Research Institute, and partnerships with area colleges, as well as securing transformative donations such as the record \$65 million gift from Mary and Richard Compton for the Compton Center for Medical Excellence and Innovation; and

WHEREAS, recognizing workforce housing as "mission critical," Mr. Werft spearheaded initiatives to provide below-market-rate homes for Cottage Health employees, including the successful Bella Riviera project and plans for future developments, demonstrating his commitment to employee retention and community investment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Werft is renowned for his gracious leadership style, characterized by a warm and inclusive approach that has earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues, the medical community, and the broader Santa Barbara community; and

WHEREAS, his leadership has fostered a culture of shared governance and collaboration, empowering front-line staff to contribute to organizational decisions and ensuring that patient care remains at the forefront of all endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Werft's dedication to community service extends beyond his professional role, as he has served on numerous boards and committees, further enriching the lives of those in Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Mr. Werft has balanced his dedication to Cottage Health with his commitment to family, and now looks forward to spending more time with his wife Mary and embracing his new role as grandfather to Lucas, their first grandchild;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara does hereby commend Ron Werft for his outstanding leadership, his warm and inclusive approach, and his dedication to Cottage Health and the Santa Barbara community, and extends its sincere appreciation for his 37 years of distinguished service.

PASSED and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 18th day of March 2025.



ATTEST:

Mona Nuyasat
Clerk of the Board

[Signature]

Supervisor - 1st District

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Supervisor - 2nd District

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Supervisor - 3rd District

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Supervisor - 4th District

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Supervisor - 5th District