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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION HONORING ROBERT S. FREEMAN, CEO OF CENCAL HEALTH UPON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 28 YEARS OF SERVICE

Whereas, Robert S. Freeman is retiring on October 31, 2021, after 28 years of public service to the Medi-Cal program serving the poor and most vulnerable in our community; and

Whereas, Mr. Freeman graduated from the University of California Santa Barbara and before joining CenCal Health in 1993, spent 10 years in Sacramento serving in various state government capacities. He was appointed as CEO of CenCal Health in 2011; and

Whereas, Mr. Freeman, has given back to the community in various ways including serving as President of the Doorway to Health Foundation, President of the Board of Dignity Health/Pacific Central Coast Health Centers (PHC) and President of the Board of CommUnify; and

Whereas, Mr. Freeman assisted in expanding services to San Luis Obispo County, creating a regional health plan. Under his leadership, the agency expanded Medi-Cal under the Affordable Care Act, integrated the California Children's Services into the plan, launched the Recuperative Care Program and initiated contributions to two local non-profits for their nutrition programs serving low-income seniors with a total investment of \$2 million over five years; and

Whereas, during the COVID-19 pandemic, he transitioned hundreds of employees to working remotely, authorized the procurement and distribution in personal protective equipment to local health care providers, and encouraged the development of telemedicine services. CenCal Health sponsored a unified, bi-lingual, public awareness campaign encouraging preventative medical services, COVID-19 testing, and a vaccination campaign; and

Whereas, Mr. Freeman, grew the organization from approximately 100 employees and a \$30 million budget to 300 employees and a budget of \$1 billion over 10 years' time; and

Whereas, Mr. Freeman and his wife, Janel, will be moving to North Carolina to begin a new adventure of exploring the East Coast and spending time with family.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors recognizes Mr. Freeman's professional accomplishments and wishes him well in his well-earned retirement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 19th day of October 2021 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

Monica Lopez
Clerk of the Board

Rob Hilling
Supervisor - 1st District

Greg Hart
Supervisor - 2nd District

Joan Bauer
Supervisor - 3rd District

Bob Weber
Supervisor - 4th District

John Dumas
Supervisor - 5th District