

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2014/22

Honoring SparkPoint Centers on the successful merging of the SparkPoint East and West County sites into one organization to streamline resources and services to residents.

Whereas, At the start of the New Year, 2014, SparkPoint Center East and SparkPoint Center West successfully merged into one Contra Costa County organization to streamline resources and services to residents; and

Whereas, The formerly independent SparkPoint Centers, created in 2009 by United Way of the Bay Area, are one-stop financial education centers designed to help individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet. SparkPoint helps clients address immediate financial crises, get back on their feet, and build financially secure futures; and

Whereas, SparkPoint brings together a full range of services, encouraging clients to take advantage of two or more at a time. By combining services, SparkPoint clients reach their financial goals faster, and

Whereas, Every SparkPoint client gets a coach who helps create a step-by-step plan to set and achieve personal financial goals – from getting out of debt to going back to school, or finding a job. SparkPoint commits to working with our clients for as long as it takes to achieve their goals – for many, that is two or three years; and

Whereas, Since opening in 2009, Contra Costa's SparkPoint Centers have served more than 2,500 people, with nearly 1,500 engaging in ongoing services to improve their credit scores, increase their incomes, reduce their debt, and increase their savings. More than 64% of these clients have shown improvement in at least one of these areas; and

Whereas, Additionally, more than 350 SparkPoint clients have received free legal advice through the organization's Debtors' Rights Legal Clinics, and another 350 have participated in SparkPoint's First Time Home-buyer's program; 220 people have participated in SparkPoint's Matched Savings program to help build funds for school, buying a first home, or starting a business; and SparkPoint has helped 110 people obtain employment during a bleak economic period; and

Whereas, SparkPoint was recognized in 2012 by the Contra Costa Council (now the East Bay Leadership Council), with an Outstanding Collaborative Project award; and

That the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County congratulates the successful merging of the SparkPoint's East and West County sites into one comprehensive organization, thereby streamlining resources to provide improved services, and honors the organization for helping thousands of residents meaningfully improve their financial footing.

KAREN MITCHOFF

Chair,
District IV Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN
District II Supervisor

MARY N. PIEPHO
District III Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER
District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: February 4, 2014

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy