

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

In the matter of:

**Resolution No. 2018/18**

**Recognizing the retirement of the Rainbow Community Center Executive Director, Ben-David Barr, for his exemplary service to the community.**

Whereas, Ben-David Barr has worked as a nonprofit manager and community organizer for more than thirty years; and

Whereas, Ben received his Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley and his MSW from the University of Washington; and

Whereas, prior to the Rainbow Center, Ben worked in Utah as Salt Lake Valley Health Department's HIV/AIDS manager, as Executive Director at AIDS Project Utah and then the Utah AIDS Foundation; and

Whereas, Ben also served as a founding board member of the Utah Harm Reduction Coalition and a Community Organizer for the Seattle-Based Gay City Health Project; and

Whereas, Ben initially became involved with Rainbow Community Center (RCC) as a volunteer, and then board member; and

Whereas, Ben became the board president in 2006 and started to serve as a part-time paid executive director in 2008 and eventually became the full-time executive director; and

Whereas, the RCC has thrived and grown throughout his tenure; and

Whereas, RCC strives to provide a safe, supportive and respectful environment for LGBTQ people of all ages, socio-economic status, races, cultures and religions; and has expanded their reach to the vulnerable members of our community – especially youth, seniors, people living with HIV/AIDS and those needing mental health and case management services; and

Whereas, under Ben's leadership, RCC has sought to create services and activities that will promote the mental, physical and spiritual well-being of the LGBTQ community by providing professional services, peer support, referral services, social opportunities and educational programs, including the Youth Program, Free HIV Testing, Kind Hearts Food Pantry, Gender Voice, etc. and

Whereas, one of the biggest achievements of RCC was securing five years of funding from the Contra Costa County Department of Behavioral Health, which allowed RCC to research innovative ways to provide health and mental health services for the LGBTQ community, and created two strong training programs for social workers and therapists; and

Whereas, RCC has become one of the very few LGBTQ+ identified organizations in the country that has secured the right to provide school-based services for queer students. RCC now has signed agreements to lead groups and provide mental health services on the campuses of schools throughout Contra Costa County; and

Whereas, in 2017 the Rainbow Community Center expanded and opened the Rainbow Community Center, West Contra Costa in El Cerrito.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County recognizes Ben-David Barr for his dedicated service to our community and positive impact on the mental, physical and spiritual well-being of the LGBTQ Community.

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**KAREN MITCHOFF**

Chair, District IV Supervisor

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**JOHN GIOIA**  
District I Supervisor

**CANDACE ANDERSEN**  
District II Supervisor

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**DIANE BURGIS**  
District III Supervisor

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**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: January 9, 2018

David J. Twa,

By: \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy