

The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

In the matter of Recognizing Dr. Carol Weyland
Conner's Humanitarian Contributions to the County of Contra Costa. Resolution No. 2023/513

WHEREAS, in 2013, Dr. Carol Weyland Conner founded White Pony Express, the volunteer-powered nonprofit which delivers fresh, surplus food gathered from supermarkets and restaurants to hungry neighbors, throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Conner believed, "There is a simple solution that can end the problems of hunger and marginalization for good—a new paradigm: *voluntary shared abundance*. In this model of life, responsibility for helping the family of man is assumed by *everyone*, or in the phrase White Pony Express uses, 'all of us taking care of all of us!'; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, White Pony Express has rescued and delivered more than 24 million pounds of nutritious food—equal to 20 million meals—to food insecure communities in Contra Costa County and has distributed more than 1 million items of new clothing and emergency supplies, all free of charge; and

WHEREAS, every week, White Pony Express delivers fresh groceries and nutritious meals to 14 schools in Contra Costa County where 80% of children are on free or reduced-cost lunch programs; and


WHEREAS, to foster self-worth in underserved children, Dr. Conner founded the nonprofit Following Francis, which has staged festive outdoor fairs, musical plays, and other activities for nearly 15,000 children in the East Bay, Contra Costa County, and throughout the nation and has distributed new clothing, groceries, holiday gift baskets, and cash gifts to hundreds of Contra Costa County residents in need; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Conner was the director of *Sufism Reoriented*, an American spiritual school founded by Meher Baba that honors all spiritual traditions and the essential unity of all life; and

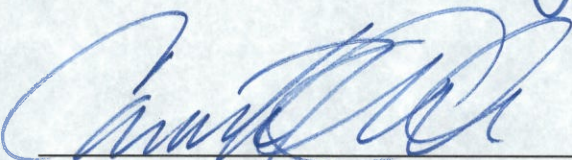
WHEREAS, during the pandemic, volunteers of White Pony Express and Following Francis participated in a project initiated by Dr. Conner which involved distributing hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash gifts of \$1,200 apiece to county residents, identified by community organizations as being in dire need; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby recognize the impact of Dr. Conner's contributions and humanitarian efforts to serve underserved Contra Costa residents. Moreover, we are deeply grateful for her compassionate heart, dedicated work, and exceptional leadership. Her legacy will live on through her nonprofits which serve food, clothing, and beautify neighborhoods throughout the country.


PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 1st day of August 2023.



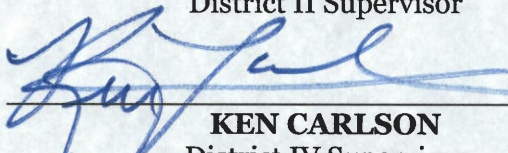
JOHN GIOIA
Chair,
District I Supervisor



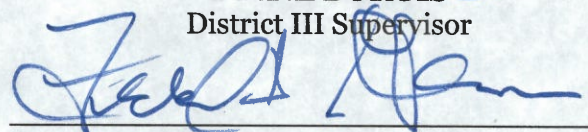
CANDACE ANDERSEN
District II Supervisor



DIANE BURGIS
District III Supervisor



KEN CARLSON
District IV 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: August 1, 2023

MONICA NINO, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By  , Deputy