

RESOLUTION
of
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MARIN COUNTY

COMMENDING
LESLIE ALDEN

ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM 13 ½ YEARS IN COUNTY SERVICE

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2006, Leslie Alden arrived at the Marin County Civic Center to begin work as an Aide to Supervisor Charles McGlashan, launching herself into nonstop, round the clock excitement, working on a broad sweep of county issues from "potholes to policy" and everything in between; and

WHEREAS, in signing on as a Supervisor's Aide, Leslie turned her back on opportunities in the high-flying private sector to take up the challenges that only an "under the radar" job working in public service affords: longer hours, lower pay but, on most days anyway, higher job satisfaction serving "engaged and vocal" residents and working to enhance their quality of life every day; and

WHEREAS, although a San Francisco native, Leslie left the Bay Area to study at the prestigious Art Center in Pasadena, California and soon rose through the ranks of the cut-throat world of advertising to become a "Creative Director," developing the communication skills she would later bring to the "keep all options on the table" world of politics; and

WHEREAS, while mostly a lifetime Marin resident, Leslie took a break from life in freewheeling Northern California to see how the other half of the state lived in Orange County. There, she raised her daughter, Caitlin Crowe, and, in her free time, dove head first into education policy work, only to flee back to beloved Marin, leaving, in her own words, the "land of beige" behind; and

WHEREAS, Leslie brings persistence and passion to everything she does. Whether meeting with environmental activists, attending green business conferences throughout the Bay Area or flying to Germany or the East Coast of the United States for international climate dialogue, Leslie consistently carried the torch of urgency, stressing the need for climate action now; and

WHEREAS, working with Supervisor Charles McGlashan, Leslie was intensely engaged in the pioneering work of launching Marin Clean Energy, the first renewable energy community choice aggregation program in the State of California, which began serving customers in May of 2010. Brimming with creativity and can-do spirit, Leslie conceived of and assigned a District Three intern the unenviable job of sculpting a super-sized, bright blue and green power plug - a worthy and visible prop for the historic, televised launch of Marin Clean Energy; and

WHEREAS, working with Supervisor Kate Sears, Leslie played a key role in bringing virtual reality sea level rise viewers, the "Owls," to the southern Marin shoreline near Tam High, and was instrumental in helping plan and initiate Drawdown: Marin, a community-focused campaign to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Leslie is smart, witty and deeply committed to the things she believes in. In addition to being laser focused on protecting the environment and addressing climate change, Leslie has also spent countless hours working with the people of Marin City, the floating homes communities in Sausalito, and the residents who live on the waters of Richardson's Bay; and

WHEREAS, choosing to live a full and well-rounded life, Leslie possesses a keen eye for design, an abiding love for theater, the energy and curiosity to learn how to build mortarless stone walls and fire clay objects in a pit on the beach, and the passion of Julia Child in the kitchen. Leslie has even defied the laws of gravity by taking up Bandaloop, the art of dancing on walls parallel to the floor, suspended by a harness; and

WHEREAS, Leslie has left County service after 13 and 1/2 years to pursue her passion – work on climate change mitigation. The County’s loss is the wider community’s gain. Addressing climate change – or climate emergency as she prefers to say – is where Leslie’s heart is and where her heart needs to be. And we’re excited about the good work she will do.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marin County Board of Supervisors commends and thanks Leslie Alden for her 13 and 1/2 years of service to the elected Supervisors of District Three, the residents of District Three and the people of the County of Marin, who have benefitted immeasurably from Leslie’s enthusiasm, hard work, and focused pursuit of climate action, protecting people, creatures and the planet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Marin County Board of Supervisors hopes Leslie Alden fully enjoys the luxury of a pause in the rush of work and life to relax, recharge and recalibrate before embarking on the next exciting chapter of her life.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 6th day of August 2019.



KATHRIN SEARS – SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 3 - PRESIDENT

