

**COMMENDING  
KERRY PEIRSON  
FOR SERVICE TO THE MARIN COMMUNITY**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Kerry Peirson was born in Oakland and is a graduate of El Cerrito High School, pursued journalism studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C., finding work at Washington papers before eventually returning to California; and

**WHEREAS**, with an inner compass set to serving the needs of low-income residents, Kerry has chosen to invest his time and talent for observation and advocacy to improve his home, his community, and the wider world, using his well-honed writing and investigative skills for the pursuit of social justice causes throughout Marin and the Bay Area; and

**WHEREAS**, as an early advocate of technology and keen to keep his home, the Shelter Hill community, from succumbing to the perils of the digital divide, Kerry pioneered and won HUD funding and then nationwide honors for helping establish the Shelter Hill Computer Learning Center, offering technology to low-income households and bringing elders and students together for cooperative learning and pursuit of entrepreneurship and opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, a longtime resident of the City of Mill Valley, Kerry was the first African-American resident to serve on the Mill Valley Parks and Recreation Commission and completed two terms of service, serving as Chairman, and helped create and establish a scholarship program for low-income Southern Marin residents to enable participation in fee-based social, cultural and recreational activities; and

**WHEREAS**, as a Board Member of the Marin County American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) from 1992 to 1997, Kerry focused his work on defending civil liberties and bringing the principles of justice and equity to everyday problems in the workplace, the community and the home; and

**WHEREAS**, while serving 7 years as a “client eligible representative” on the Board of Legal Aid of Marin, Kerry, theoretically income eligible for services, kept an observant eye on how Board decisions would affect clients and helped guide policy to sustain the well being of both clients and the agency; and

**WHEREAS**, on the Marin Human Rights Commission, Kerry, drawing upon experience dealing with housing discrimination, served on the Housing Committee and worked with the education and law enforcement committees, helping bring individuals and agencies into better and more culturally competent working relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, as one of only two County appointments and as the County of Marin’s “representative of the poor and needy” on the Marin Community Foundation Board of Trustees, Kerry faithfully served the board as a trustee, while at the same time understanding and fulfilling his responsibility to Marin’s poor and needy as the Marin Board of Supervisors’ appointment in that capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, christening himself “the world’s poorest philanthropist,” Kerry brought both passion and his unique, self-described “economically bilingual” observations for the MCF Board’s consideration in his 4 year term of service; and

**WHEREAS**, joined with his MCF trustees united in the pursuit of an improved quality of life for Marin and the people in need, Kerry Peirson leaves foundation service optimistic about its future, incorporating new and better ways to get better results for others less fortunate people.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin does thank and commend Kerry Peirson for a remarkable life of service to the people of Marin, especially for his dedication to the poor and needy with whom Kerry shares bonds of genuine respect and appreciation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors offers its congratulations and best wishes to Kerry Peirson as he pursues other galvanizing social justice causes that will undoubtedly bring him back to this chamber with impassioned oratory and calls for well-considered and expeditious action.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 30th day of November 2010.