



CITY OF PALO ALTO OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

January 4, 2021

**The Honorable City Council
Palo Alto, California**

Adoption of a Resolution Expressing Appreciation for Outstanding Public Service to Liz Kniss as Council Member and Mayor

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A: Liz Kniss Resolution 2020 - Ceremonial (DOCX)

Department Head: Beth Minor, City Clerk



Resolution

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO ELIZABETH KNISS FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE AS COUNCIL MEMBER

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Hayden Kniss served as Council Member from January 1990 through December 2000 and from January 2013 through December 2018, as Vice Mayor in 1993 and in 2017, and as Mayor in 1994, 2000 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, Liz has served Palo Alto and the region for over 35 years, beginning her elected service in 1985 as a trustee of the Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education, then serving on the Palo Alto City Council from 1990 to 2000, including as Vice Mayor and Mayor, and then went on to serve on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors from 2001-2012, including as Board President in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Liz, a public health nurse, always focused on improving the community's physical and mental wellbeing, championing initiatives such as Healthy Cities/Healthy Communities, bicycle infrastructure, quality food and service programs for seniors, improved tobacco regulations, and served for many years on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, including as chair in 2017; and

WHEREAS, during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, Liz pushed for testing and contact tracing and helped north county cities secure regular testing sites, and has supported the county in the vaccine distribution effort, all of which earned her a Champion of the Year Award from the Santa Clara County Cities Association; and

WHEREAS, during her many years of service, Liz always sought to balance neighborhood and business interests, supporting and fundraising for initiatives like the new Junior Museum and Zoo and the Palo Alto History Museum, voting to open Foothills Park to all, and also leading economic programs such as restaurant parklets, opening University and California Avenues to pedestrians and dining, small business grants, and weekly check-in sessions on Zoom with local retailers and restaurants; and

WHEREAS, facing the Bay Area's housing shortage head-on, Liz has been a constant supporter of expanding housing choices, including support for affordable housing developments such as Maybell, Buena Vista Mobile Home Park, and Wilton Court, updating regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units, and launching the Housing Work Plan; and

WHEREAS, a booster of our Sister Cities program, Liz visited and built lasting relationships with five of Palo Alto's eight Sister Cities, including Oaxaca, Albi, Enschede, Heidelberg, and the Yangpu District of Shanghai; and

WHEREAS, Liz is such an important, friendly, and notable member of our community, walking the Stanford Dish each morning, knowing residents in every neighborhood, greeting business owners by first names, and always offering her knowledge, relationships, and assistance to help solve a problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Palo Alto hereby commends Liz's outstanding public service and gratefully records both its appreciation, and the appreciation of the citizens and businesses of this community, for her decades of meritorious service and commitment as Trustee and President of the Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education, Santa Clara County Supervisor and Board President, and as City of Palo Alto Council Member and Mayor.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED: January 4, 2021

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Manager

City Attorney