

WHEREAS, E. Christopher (Chris) Wilder has served eighteen years in the Bay Area’s public benefit sector, including the Valley Medical Center (VMC) Foundation for five years, where he has raised more money for the Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System (SCVHHS) in four years than in the previous sixteen years combined, and is being honored by the American Fundraising Professionals; and

WHEREAS, Chris Wilder has grown the VMC Foundation from a struggling agency of 2.3 full-time employees to a vibrant operation with 12 staff, a number of contractors, and an active and diverse board, and is seen as a problem-solver and collaborative leader, and a well-known speaker on health care issues; and

WHEREAS, Chris Wilder’s accomplishments are impressive, and include striking a partnership with Santa Clara County to share the cost of a new linear accelerator for the treatment of cancer; Chris had promised to raise half (\$1.8M) in two years and accomplished this in only seven months, then went on to complete fundraising for an MRI and other cancer detection and treatment equipment; this year the VMC Foundation stewarded a gift of 14,000 square feet of office space from the Sobrato Foundation, and a nearly-new wheelchair accessible van from the Stanford Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Chris Wilder’s programmatic achievements include the Cypress Maternal Mobile, providing ultrasounds to women throughout the County, a program providing internet access for patients in the rehabilitation facility, a pediatric playground on the fifth floor of the new VMC Main hospital, an inspiring program providing new bicycles to needy children during the holidays, and the Reach Out and Read (ROR) nationwide program now at five SCVHHS Pediatric Clinics, encouraging literacy in children and educating parents about the importance of reading aloud to their children; and

WHEREAS, Chris Wilder is a graduate of several leadership programs, including Stanford University’s Executive Program in Nonprofit Leadership, serves on the Santa Clara County Child Abuse Council, is past chair of the county’s Victim Support Network, a founding board member of *Dance 4 Health*, a lifelong professional musician and song writer, award-winning cable TV producer and host, and with his wife Kate, supporter of many local non-profits, including the VMC Foundation which has led to 100% giving by both the board and staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California does hereby honor and commend

E. Christopher Wilder

for his dynamic leadership and fundraising skill as Executive Director of the Valley Medical Center Foundation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this Eighteenth Day of November, Two Thousand Eight by unanimous vote.

Pete McHugh, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Donald F. Gage
Supervisor, District One

Blanca Alvarado
Supervisor, District Two

Ken Yeager
Supervisor, District Four

Liz Kniss
Supervisor, District Five

Attest: Maria Marinos
Clerk, Board of Supervisors