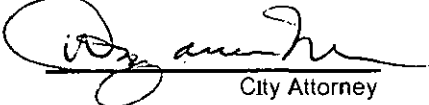


OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND


City Attorney

12 DEC -6 AMU: 08

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LARRY E. REID

A RESOLUTION HONORING RON SYNDER FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY DEDICATION AND OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

WHEREAS, Ron Synder received a Jesuit education and was introduced to community organizing in Oakland in 1973 at the Oakland Training Institute, which later was named PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing), where he became an organizer with the founders of Oakland Community Organizations (OCO), Fr. John Baumann and Fr. Jerry Helfrich. After four years of neighborhood organizing, in May 1977 the founding Convention of OCO was held; and

WHEREAS, Ron married in 1974 and moved to Kansas City, where he served as the founding director of the local PICO affiliate, Communities Creating Opportunity, for seven years; and

WHEREAS, In 1984 Ron returned to Oakland to direct OCO, and guided the organization through the transition from a neighborhood model to a faith-based model of organizing in congregations. In February 1993, Ron became the Executive Director of the San Francisco Organizing Project as they joined the PICO network, and in 1994, Ron became the founding Executive Director of PICO California; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, Ron built the clergy sponsoring committee that became Congregations Organizing for Renewal (COR) serving South Alameda County. Ron was back in Oakland in 1996 as Executive Director of OCO while simultaneously directing PICO California, and two years later he left his position with PICO California to focus exclusively on OCO. Ron has provided thoughtful leadership and brilliant organizational skills that have been instrumental in PICO expansion across California and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Ron deeply embodies the spirit of the “servant leader.” For almost 40 years, he has labored intensively to cultivate organizations made of true leaders—individuals and institutions with the capacity to steward the power and resources they have built, and the passion and commitment to continue to create collective power that embodies social justice action for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Ron has served as a mentor, teacher, and cheerleader for thousands of Oakland community members—local people who become confident, determined spokespersons

and take on big fights to ensure equitable and excellent education, health care access, safe and vibrant neighborhoods, access to living wage jobs and community benefits through economic development, and just immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, While the many issue victories are too numerous to share, Ron's incomparable strategic thinking and commitment to leadership development across Oakland has made an indelible impact: he has supported the work of hundreds of OCO leaders who have fought for education equity through OCO's Small Schools Initiative and subsequent policy efforts, and contributed to OUSD becoming the most improved urban school district in California for the last seven years. Similarly, he has supported efforts of thousands of immigrants as they moved towards citizenship and civic engagement and built their skills through OCO local organizing committees; and he has encouraged a dedicated core of OCO leaders who have worked diligently to bring best practices to reduce the rising tide of gun violence across the city; and

WHEREAS, Ron's contribution to the amazing growth and success of the PICO network is also notable. PICO now embraces 1,000 member institutions representing one million families in 150 U.S. cities and 17 states, with growing efforts in Central America and in Rwanda, where Ron is the lead consultant as that organization grows. PICO figures include OCO, currently comprised of nearly 80 congregations and schools throughout Oakland; and

WHEREAS, Ron now envisions a new phase in his life's work, remaining available to OCO during their transition in leadership, while continuing his support of Pastor John Rutsindintwarane, the Executive Director of PICO-Rwanda; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That, the Oakland City Council hereby commends Ron Snyder for almost 40 years of exemplary dedication and outstanding community service, and extends best wishes to Ron Snyder on his future endeavors; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution, suitably inscribed, shall be presented to Ron Snyder with the compliments of City Council, and as a token of their appreciation and highest esteem.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2012

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, SCHAAF, and PRESIDENT REID

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California