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Approved as to Form and Legality

City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER NOEL GALLO AND VICE MAYOR ANNIE CAMPBELL WASHINGTON

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF LIISA HALE, BLUESKIES FOR CHILDREN CO-DIRECTOR, AND HONORING HER FOR 27 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FIELD

WHEREAS, Liisa earned a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Early Childhood Education and Development from Mills College; and for 7 years ran Geranium Cottage, the infant-toddler childcare center at Mills College; and

WHEREAS, Liisa Hale began teaching at BlueSkies for Children (then Association of Children's Services) on September 10, 1990, and became Co-Director in September 1995; and upon demonstrating her expertise as a toddler teacher for 5 years took leadership and began guiding the school forward with Co-Director Claire Bainer; and

WHEREAS, while serving as Co-Director of BlueSkies for Children, Liisa supervised, and provided leadership to the administration of BlueSkies for Children and established strong business practices and fiscal stability for the growing school. Liisa also served as a Director Mentor for 7 years providing guidance and coaching to directors throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, Liisa coached and supported and guided young families and hundreds of their children through the delights and trials of toilet training, biting and tantrums in the toddler years transitioning each child from babyhood into the autonomy of the preschool years; and

WHEREAS, Liisa began this work with a passion for the children and she furthered her commitment to the betterment of children's lives by gaining expertise in working with the adults who have an impact on the children's lives. She increased parents understand of their children's development, offered practical suggestions strengthening the family and coaching parents. Liisa guided young students and developed teacher training programs and supported staff to develop healthy meal plans and beautiful gardens and thoughtfully designed environments; and

WHEREAS, Liisa's sincerity, stability, optimistic attitude and dedication to blending sound academic understanding of the young child's development has served as an excellent example to those under her leadership and throughout the community through the years; and

WHEREAS, Liisa worked independently and with focus on many projects. She became strong and open minded team member with the ability to work in collaboration in all areas of the school and the Early Childhood community; and

WHEREAS, Liisa strengthened, coordinated, structured and guided the BlueSkies Board of Directors through a capitol campaign and the major reconstruction of the facility, and guided the school through the National Accreditation of the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC accreditation) for the last 15 years, and contributed to establishing BlueSkies for Children as the only quality child care programs in Oakland to achieve this level of excellence. Demonstrating that quality Child Care is good for all children regardless of their life circumstances; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That Liisa contributed significantly to the field of early child development, and co-wrote and published Second Home, A Day in the Life of a Model Early Childhood Program in 2007 and Bridge to School, Aligning Teaching with Development for Ages Four to Six in 2017; and contributed to the development and creation of 5 teacher training DVDs; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council commends Liisa Hale on the celebration of her retirement and on the vital role she has played in improving the lives of the children, families and staff of the school, and enriching the broader early childhood community.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST:_____

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California