



RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

WHEREAS, 140 years ago, on May 11, 1878, The Ferndale Enterprise newspaper was established by the Jones boys, sons of the town's Methodist minister; and

WHEREAS, The Enterprise was launched as an answer to oft-expressed dreams of Ferndale citizens to have their own newspaper, and also in the face of skepticism that the venture could succeed financially; and

WHEREAS, the small weekly newspaper has lasted 140 years with 14 owners; and

WHEREAS, the publication has never missed a week, despite floods, earthquakes, power outages and illnesses of its various editors and publishers; and

WHEREAS, newspapers around the world are closing up shop due to the collapse of print advertising and many have been dying in slow motion over the past two decades and yet still, The Enterprise keeps the presses rolling; and

WHEREAS, newspapers and journalists are the cornerstone of democracy with citizens in small communities relying on their neighborhood newspaper to attend a multitude of meetings, lend historical context to governmental decisions, perform an important watchdog role, hold up a mirror to their community to reflect the good, the bad and the ugly and be the champion of causes that benefit their communities; and

WHEREAS, The Ferndale Enterprise has dutifully performed those duties for 14 decades and has in the past 20-plus years been honored by national, state and local journalism and First Amendment organizations for its relentless advocacy for transparency, freedom of the press and open government, as well as its reporting, editorial writing, editorial cartoons, columns, business reporting, breaking news reporting and special publications; and

WHEREAS, most recently in 2016 the newspaper and its current editor were recognized with three prestigious honors in one year from the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists; the California Newspaper Publishers Association and the First Amendment Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the newspaper over the past two decades has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for worthy causes in Ferndale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the 140th anniversary of The Ferndale Enterprise and values the importance of the newspaper to its community and readers and reaffirms the role that a free press plays on the democratic institutions of the United States.

DATED: December 18, 2018



RYAN SUNDBERG, Chair