

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

WHEREAS, the Boys & Girls Club Teen Court program began in 2001 to serve the youth of Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt County is credited with having the first youth court program in the state of California, with a successful model established in 1987 until the early 1990's with a solely volunteer-run program; and

WHEREAS, Judge Christopher Wilson is not only an original founder of the Boys & Girls Club Teen Court program but has also served continuously for 22 years; and

WHEREAS, Judge Christopher Wilson advocated for the Boys & Girls Club Teen Court to be staffed by paid employees; rather than the volunteer-based model of the previous program. This lobbying led to the sustained longevity of the program and is one of the reasons why the Boys & Girls Club Teen Court has been continuously operating for over 22 years now; and

WHEREAS, since March 29, 2001, 599 first-time juvenile offenders have successfully completed their Teen Court cases and of this number, the overall recidivism rate for the program since inception is 8.8%, which translated into a 91% success rate; and

WHEREAS, Judge Christopher Wilson has served as Supervising Mentor Judge for Teen Court in Humboldt County and has provided thoughtful leadership and unwavering dedication to the Teen Court mission where he always provides reflection time on pressing issues that teens are facing today; and

WHEREAS, Judge Christopher Wilson has helps youth better understand the juvenile justice system and their rights and responsibilities within it, fostered civic engagement among teenagers, as Teen Court serves as a critical vehicle to model, and reinforced the important work of jury service among the young people who will one day form the jury pools of our county.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby commends and recognizes Judge Christopher Wilson for serving as founder, mentor, and friend to countless Humboldt County youth; and touching the lives of so many who truly needed it.

Dated: December 13, 2022

Virginia Bass, Chair

