

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTURE OF MAYOR GISELLE HALE AS SHE CONCLUDES HER SERVICE ON THE CITY COUNCIL OF REDWOOD CITY

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend and colleague the Honorable Giselle Hale as she concludes her service on the City Council of Redwood City. Serving from 2018 to the present, Giselle helped shape a remarkable period in Redwood City's history and development.

Giselle had a lot of experience before joining the council. She was a planning commissioner for four years prior to her election, and during that time she strongly supported housing development in a city with explosive job growth. For example, she voted for the development of 131 townhouses at 1548 Maple Street, noting that, "There are very few three-bedroom units and ownership opportunities, and I think it's a fabulous opportunity . . . [and it is] activating a part of the waterfront to make it a destination." Countless families, recently moved to town, have in part Giselle Hale to thank for their opportunity.

In 2018, council candidate Hale's ballot statement said that, if elected, she would work hard to make streets safer, to ensure unmatched police and fire services, support local businesses, provide housing for all income groups, promote excellent schools, and increase childcare options. She also indicated that she would draw on her business experience, including nine years in global marketing and additional years in other positions, to keep the city fiscally strong.

During the campaign she broke her foot while precinct walking. Unfazed, she went door to door using a knee scooter, and posted a video on social media to prove that she wasn't going to stop campaigning for any reason. In that election, she received the highest vote total out of three successful candidates at 12,723.

In 2019, the city adopted a maternity leave policy at the same time that it required improved attendance by members of boards and commissions. Councilwoman Hale made the case for the policy. In 2020, she again worked with her colleagues, this time to create a city requirement for the installation of electric appliances in new construction. "What are the biggest opportunities to slow down climate change?" remarked Giselle. "In terms of what the city can address, they fall into two buckets: transportation and buildings." The measure was adopted.

When COVID hit, Councilwoman Hale supported a rent relief fund and changes to city ordinances and practices to support local businesses. Like so many others, she also worked hard to educate her two children. In August 2020, she wrote an opinion piece in our local

newspaper advising adults to be kind to children as they went back to school largely online. She pointed out their losses of friendships and social time, and the impact the pandemic also had on teachers who were struggling with Zoom classes and uneven access by students to technology.

During the early months of the pandemic, other problems in the community did not subside. Giselle urged developers to provide childcare for working parents and worked with allies across the county to find money to assist childcare providers as the industry suffered from COVID. In 2020, she worked to establish a safe parking program for people living in RVs, moving them off the streets and into mental health and other needed services.

In 2022, Mayor Hale worked to end encampments along state rights of way and to bring people in from the cold. The county and city teamed up to purchase and renovate a hotel located close to a major encampment. A 240 bed county-led navigation center will soon open in Redwood City. Mayor Hale strongly supported the center. Also in 2022, the Mayors Mental Health Initiative, established by Mayor Hale and San Carlos Mayor Sara McDowell, was established to train residents across the county in ways to help neighbors experiencing a mental health crisis.

Madam Speaker, serving on a city council is essentially a volunteer job. It's quite common to spend twenty or more hours per week on city matters, particularly when counting related meetings on regional agencies that inevitably oblige a councilmember to leave hearth and home to once again give back to the community. I want to thank Giselle's husband, Brian, and her two daughters, Lucretia and Vivienne, for allowing her to serve her constituents. Four years of solid success mark her time on the city council of Redwood City. Giselle will be able to point to her accomplishments for many years to come. I hope she remains involved in Redwood City. Her community can always use a great leader to ensure that it remains healthy and that it thrives.

RECOGNIZING SHAWN KUMAGAI

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dublin City Council member Shawn Kumagai at the conclusion of his council membership on December 20, 2022.

Shawn's career is demonstrative of his commitment to public service. It began when he enlisted in the Navy in 2001, serving active duty and ascending in rank to Chief Petty Officer until 2011. He continues his service in the Navy Reserve with an intelligence unit at Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area as Master Chief Petty Officer.

Shawn received his Associate of Arts degree in Chinese Mandarin from the Defense

Language Institute Foreign Language Center in 2001. While on active duty, Shawn received a Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts from Excelsior University in 2007. Shawn later received his Masters of Instructional Science and Technology from California State University Monterey Bay in 2013.

In 2016, Shawn moved with his brother to Dublin while he worked as an instructional design consultant for Pacific Gas and Electric. In 2019, Shawn became the District Director for California Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, representing the 16th district.

When he was elected to Dublin City Council in 2018, Shawn made history as the city's first openly gay elected official. He helped the city maintain a balanced budget and receive the highest credit rating possible. Shawn also successfully advocated for displaying the pride flag at Dublin City Hall in 2019. In December 2020, Mayor Melissa Hernandez appointed Shawn as a vice mayor, and in that role, he helped secure \$1 million in funding for small business rent relief grants during the pandemic.

As a council member, Shawn served on various committees, including the Alameda County Fire Department Advisory Committee, Alameda County Housing Authority, Association of Bay Area Governments General Assembly, East Bay Regional Park District Liaison Committee, Economic Development Committee, Tri-Valley Affordable Housing Committee, Military Communities Committee, and the Tri-Valley Water Liaison Committee, among others.

For the past four years, Shawn has worked to ensure the City of Dublin is responsive to the needs of its residents. I join the Dublin community in celebrating his numerous achievements. I wish him quality time with his loving husband, Alex, and brother, Kevin, as he moves forward to his next adventure.

RECOGNIZING RONDA GUYTON FOR 28 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEORIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ronda Guyton for her 28 years of service in the Peoria County Sheriff's Department. Law enforcement is an essential pillar of American society responsible for guaranteeing safety and stability for our communities and families. Ronda provided an integral part of this through the care, control, and custody of the Peoria County Jail. As superintendent, Ronda ensured that those in custody of the jail were properly detained. She also ensured that detainees were treated fairly and respectfully; so that justice could be served.

Ronda served in several roles while working her way up the ranks of the Peoria County Sheriff's Office. She began as a corrections

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officer, served as a deputy officer, and was later promoted to jail superintendent. Her most recent promotion broke down multiple barriers as she was the first woman and the first African American to hold this position. The excellence she consistently demonstrated throughout her career not only set an example but paved the way for others in the future.

I am grateful for Ronda's leadership and commitment to the Peoria County Sheriffs Department where her presence will be deeply missed. I offer her my prayers and support in her ongoing battle with cancer.

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTURE OF  
THE HONORABLE LAURA  
PARMER-LOHAN FROM THE CITY  
COUNCIL OF SAN CARLOS

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Laura Parmer-Lohan as she departs the City Council of San Carlos after serving in this position from 2018 to 2022. Her years of service span a remarkable chapter in the history of her community.

When she took the oath of office in late 2018, the county of San Mateo had an unemployment rate of 2.1 percent. As she leaves office, the unemployment rate is 1.9 percent. Unemployment is generally a key indicator of the quality of life in a community. If a visitor from space judged community history from only those two numbers, they would think that nothing changed in the years that Laura served her neighbors. As we all know, one would have to be a visitor from space to have that point of view.

Her colleague, Councilman Ron Collins, made this comment about the year 2020 when he served as Mayor and Laura served as Vice-Mayor. "During that tumultuous year, Laura earnestly sought out community and business leaders to understand their COVID-related issues. She was then instrumental in securing the practical help we needed as neighbors and business owners." The record backs him up. Laura and her colleagues offered city financial support to businesses and residents, closed portions of the downtown to ensure the survival of restaurants, and adapted their plans on the go to accommodate as many needs as possible.

A note within the city's 3rd quarter financial report of fiscal year 2019–2020 contains this historic understatement, "The COVID-19 related emergency declared in mid-March began to affect revenue and expenditures towards the end of the third quarter, but the effects had little impact on the usual trends. The effects will primarily be seen in quarter four and beyond." Laura works in the private sector. To her that language was financial-speak for, "Head for the high ground. A tsunami is coming."

She and her colleagues ably guided city finances despite enormous uncertainty. San Carlos is recovering from the pandemic with strong finances. As city residents take stock of their high-quality police and fire services, beautiful parks, and restoration of much-beloved public events like Home Town Days and the downtown Art and Wine Festival, they can

in part thank Laura and her colleagues for wrestling community success from the jaws of the COVID-19 alligator.

Of course, her term of office should not be defined by the pandemic. Laura worked hard to establish a higher minimum wage, voted for affordable housing construction, and supported a plan for the city's eastside industrial area that will lead to the creation of thousands of life science and other high technology jobs over the coming years. She is a strong advocate for affordable childcare, voted to ban the sale of flavored tobacco in San Carlos, supported linkage fees to create community benefits from commercial development, and supported using city funds for gun buybacks. One colleague remarked that she also did a great job running city council meetings. If there was an Emmy Award for Zoom city council meetings that run on time and still hold the public's attention at 11 p.m. on a work night, Laura would accept in the role of best director, with appropriate recognition given to staff and her colleagues.

Laura was born in West Virginia and raised in San Diego. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz and her MBA from the University of California at Berkeley. She and her family moved to San Carlos in 2011, and then deeply embedded themselves in the life of this small community. Laura's wife, Kathy, is the widely respected Executive Director of the San Carlos Education Foundation, and their two sons, Bradley and Gregory, attended local public schools.

Laura can often be seen riding her bicycle around town. She is an avid athlete and her energy in public office reflects her stamina. She will soon have more time for her family and friends, a just reward after so many evenings donated for public benefit. We should all thank her family for their support of her service.

Madam Speaker, John Denver memorably described Laura's birthplace, West Virginia, as "almost heaven." We shouldn't put Laura on the spot to compare San Carlos to the Blue Ridge Mountains, but we're thankful that she and her family settled on Howard Avenue rather than on the banks of the Shenandoah River. Denver also sang that life is old in West Virginia. Proudly, San Carlos is quite young and vibrant. This also describes the spirit of Laura Parmer-Lohan. She is a public servant who in 2018 signed up for a volunteer job on a few nights a month. She ended up doing enormous overtime in defense of our lives and welfare for four eventful years. Job well done.

HONORING MONTY TRAINER

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians, to recognize Monty Trainer for his contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on the July 28, 1896, date of the city's incorporation.

Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories. Monty Trainer's commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Monty Trainer for his contributions to the community and his role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

REMEMBERING STAUGHTON LYND

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staughton Lynd, who passed away on Thursday, November 17, 2022. He was 92 years old.

Staughton was born in 1929, the son of Robert and Helen Merrell Lynd. Staughton grew up in New York City, during the Great Depression and World War II. He went through the schools of the Ethical Culture Society, where he took to heart the words in the auditorium, "The place where men meet to seek the highest is holy ground." As a senior at Fieldston, he was elected class president and captain of the baseball team. Staughton received a Bachelor of Arts degree at Harvard, Master of Arts and Doctorate of Philosophy degrees in history from Columbia and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Chicago.

Staughton Lynd and Alice Lee Niles met in Cambridge, Mass., in the summer of 1950, shortly after the beginning of the Korean war. They were married a year later, at the Stony Run Friends Meetinghouse in Baltimore, where Alice's parents were members.

During the mid-1950s, they lived in an ecumenical religious community in northeast Georgia. Several years later, they joined the Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers.

Eager to participate in the Southern civil rights movement, in 1961, Staughton accepted an offer to teach history at Spelman College in Atlanta.

In 1964, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) recruited him to be coordinator of the "Freedom Schools" for black teenagers as part of the interracial "Mississippi Summer Project." At a time when whites were becoming less welcome in the civil rights movement in the South, in 1964, Staughton accepted a position teaching history at Yale University and the Lynds moved to New Haven, Connecticut.

Staughton chaired the first march against the war in Vietnam in Washington, D.C., on April 17, 1965. On August 9, 1965, he was arrested together with Bob Moses and David Dellinger at the Assembly of Unrepresented People in Washington, D.C., where demonstrators sought to declare peace with the people of Vietnam on the steps of the Capitol. In December 1965 through January 1966, Staughton, along with Tom Hayden and Herbert Aptheker made a controversial trip to Hanoi in hopes of clarifying the peace terms that might be acceptable to the North Vietnamese government and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam. Because of his notoriety and controversy over his advocacy