

Date: January 24, 2023
W.I.: 1111
Referred by: Commission

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 4628

Resolution of Appreciation for Leah Zippert upon her retirement from MTC after 23 years of service.

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RE: Resolution of Appreciation for Leah Zippert

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
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WHEREAS, Leah Zippert is retiring after 23 years of dedicated and outstanding service to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments as a communications, public information, language and logistics expert; and

WHEREAS, Leah began working at ABAG in 2000 as a Communications Officer, was promoted to Senior Communications Officer in 2015, and joined MTC as Senior Public Information Officer in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Leah in fact dipped her toes into ABAG a decade prior to that in 1991 through an internship with the Estuary Project (now the Estuary Partnership), writing the “pink fact sheet” detailing myriad government agencies’ relationships with ABAG; and

WHEREAS, as an organizer and orchestrator of the ABAG General Assembly meetings for over 20 years, Leah thoughtfully planned and seamlessly executed over 30 assemblies, during which time she largely established the “voice” of ABAG communications; and

WHEREAS, Leah excelled at translation of legalese and planner-speak into plain English, mellifluously writing, conscientiously editing and flawlessly punctuating publications such as the Service Matters newsletter, the ABAG e-newsletter, commemorative historical calendars and regular content for the ABAG website; and

WHEREAS, the annual ABAG Budget & Work Program document, which Leah prepared for many years, involved intense coordination with every department of the agency, especially the Finance department; and

WHEREAS, in the course of organizing the annual ABAG Awards Program and many ABAG Executive Board retreats, Leah honed her skills in Board member communication and event planning, including writing speeches; navigating ad hoc committees; scouting and securing venues and caterers; reviewing applications; working with local photographers and videographers; and following through with thousands of related details; and

WHEREAS, Leah's essential work on housing issues for MTC and ABAG included launching public information efforts for the newly established Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) in 2019; the Regional Housing Technical Assistance (RHTA) Program in 2020; three cycles of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA); and Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) and REAP 2.0 grants; and

WHEREAS Leah's work on housing greatly contributed to MTC and ABAG winning the Award of Excellence (first place) for the RHTA program in the Planning Agency (public sector) Category as part of the American Planning Association's California and Northern Section Awards Programs; and

WHEREAS, Leah industriously earned her Master's Degree in Public Policy while actively serving MTC and ABAG, and also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economic and Political Analysis from Mills College; and

WHEREAS, beyond her logistic and storytelling prowess, Leah's keen attention to the personal touch can be seen in such thoughtful details as creating special fortune cookies enclosing historical tidbits or naming a star in honor of a Supervisor at an event at the Chabot Space & Science Center; and

WHEREAS, speaking of personal touches and style, Leah graced the workplace with amazing hand-sewn outfits and creative jewelry, providing much-needed pops of color and originality to often-drab office halls; and

WHEREAS, Leah’s friendly and approachable style—while still professional—led with laughter and mutual respect, making her, in the exact words of colleagues, “a good friend who truly went above and beyond” and “helped make working at ABAG a joy;” and

WHEREAS, as a Bay Area native born in San Francisco, after growing up in Redwood City and San Mateo with a brief sojourn in Santa Rosa, now settled in Oakland, Leah’s personal connection to the region she serves is evident in the quality and passion of her work; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the staff and commissioners of MTC thank Leah for her 23 years of service to the agency and to the people of the Bay Area and hereby authorize her to integrate the Oxford comma back into her writing. We wish Leah, her husband Chris, and her children Andrew and Katherine a very healthy, happy and well-deserved next chapter that may include travel on the West Coast and to Washington D.C.; house projects; notions both sewing-related and philosophical; and enjoying time together as a family.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Alfredo Pedroza, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in San Francisco, California, and at other remote locations, on January 24, 2024.