

Date: September 27, 2017
W.I.: 1111
Referred by: Commission

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 4303

Resolution of appreciation for Carolyn McKenzie on the occasion of her retirement from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission after 28 years of service.

Date: September 27, 2017
W.I.: 1111
Referred by: Commission

RE: Resolution of Appreciation for Carolyn McKenzie

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 4303

WHEREAS, Carolyn McKenzie is retiring from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission after 28 years of stellar service to the agency; and

WHEREAS, Carolyn started her career at MTC in June of 1989 when she was assigned by a temporary agency to work as a secretary and word processor for the Public Information and Legislative units, where she quickly proved herself; and

WHEREAS, after three months of what MTC's executive director at the time termed "superior performance" as an outside temp, MTC took Carolyn onto the agency's in-house payroll, and then in recognition of her potential, in short order converted her to regular status, so eager was the agency to ensure that Carolyn would stay; and

WHEREAS, after two years of surviving and thriving under the wordsmiths and nitpickers on the Public Information and Legislative Teams, and showing that she could uphold the laws of spelling and grammar with the best of them, Carolyn decided in 1991 to challenge herself again by going back to her bookkeeping roots and transferring to the Accounting/Finance Section, in the process earning a significant promotion to the position of Finance tech; and

WHEREAS, as the Finance tech, Carolyn initially was responsible for bank reconciliations and processing cash receipts, until MTC's first ever chief finance officer — Brian Mayhew — came on board, and selected her as his personal assistant; and so loyal was Carolyn to the Accounting/Finance Section and to Brian that she turned down a plum opportunity to work in MTC's Executive Office; and

WHEREAS, as the CFO's administrative assistant, a position she has held for the last 18 years, Carolyn stepped into the high-flying, high-finance world of the Bay Area Toll Authority,

booking frequent trips back East by Brian and his sidekick Sue Woo to visit bond rating agencies and bankers, and arranging Napa Valley tony golf tournaments and banquets for visiting financiers from the East Coast; and

WHEREAS, Carolyn was uniquely suited for this assignment, bringing an inner island calm instilled by her native Trinidad, and street smarts and a toughness honed during her teenage and young adult years growing up in Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, at the same time as attentively serving the needs of her various bosses over the years at MTC, Carolyn wore other important hats — that of a single mom who lovingly and fiercely raised her son Jamal, a loving partner to Damon, and a devoted member of her church; and

WHEREAS, as further evidence that Carolyn has full access to both halves of her brain, the analytical/numbers side and the creative side, she has steeped herself in the art of quilting, producing very professional-looking wall hangings and bed covers for the loved ones in her life; and

WHEREAS, while she only worked for two years in the MTC unit that morphed into Legislation and Public Affairs, Carolyn continued to be a beloved honorary member of the LPA team, joining her original coworkers for birthdays and other happy occasions, lured as much by the call of friendship as by the offer of treats; and

WHEREAS, Carolyn is a well-known and popular figure at MTC whose friendships go beyond the sections where she worked, touching every department and corner of the agency; and

WHEREAS, despite a pronounced sweet tooth that was frequently in evidence, Carolyn appears to have a secret formula for remaining svelte, and she always cut a stylish, willowy figure in the halls of the Oakland MetroCenter and then the Bay Area Metro Center in San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the executives and commissioners of MTC thank Carolyn for her nearly three decades of keeping the agency and Brian out of trouble; that her many friends throughout the agency declare that she will be sorely missed and forever remembered for her warmth, her humor, her indomitable spirit and her keen observations delivered in her Trinidadian lilt; and that collectively, we all wish her well-deserved rest and relaxation, and time and space to explore her talents and interests.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Jake Mackenzie, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
at a regular meeting of the Commission held in
San Francisco, California, on September 27, 2017.