

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO ROBERT E. GUENZEL FOR HIS
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO WASHTENAW COUNTY

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 5, 2010

WHEREAS, Robert E. Guenzel will retire from Washtenaw County after a career spanning thirty-seven years of public service to the County; and

WHEREAS, Robert earned his Bachelors in Business Administration from the University of Michigan School of Business Administration and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Robert practiced law in Washtenaw County and southeast Michigan for 25 years as a National Labor Relations Board Attorney, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Ann Arbor, a managing partner at Harris, Lax, Guenzel, and Meir, and as Washtenaw County Corporation Counsel; and

WHEREAS, Robert began his term of service at Washtenaw County as the first Corporation Counsel in 1973, also serving as the County's labor negotiator, and was appointed in 1994 as Washtenaw County Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Robert's tenure as County Administrator began at a time of great economic challenges for Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, Robert's leadership led to the development of the County's Guiding Principles including an investment in the professional development of employees at every level of the organization; and

WHEREAS, Robert transformed the organization and created a new culture through the development of the Business Improvement Process; and

WHEREAS, Robert led and inspired the organization through his vision of World Class public service, a strong belief in the power of relationships, and through the engagement of over 1300 employees; and

WHEREAS, under Robert's leadership as County Administrator, Washtenaw County government has developed into a world class service provider that continues to benefit thousands in the community in ways great and small; and

WHEREAS, Robert's commitment to the community established Washtenaw County as a true 'safety net' and led to the development of numerous successful community initiatives for improved health care, services to house the homeless, inspiring and empowering youth and enabling greater economic development in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, Robert co-convened the Washtenaw County Task Force on Homelessness and played a prominent role in the creation of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance, Alpha House emergency shelter for families, and the Blueprint to End Homelessness in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, Robert helped lead the effort to create a private-public partnership to build the Robert J. Delonis Center, a homeless shelter and service center that helps more than 1,500 homeless adults each year with shelter as well as support services, shortening the duration and severity of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Robert was one of the originators and continuing board member of Ann Arbor SPARK, a critical local economic development agency, and has served as director on numerous boards for local organizations including the Washtenaw Housing Alliance, The Ark, the Success by Six Initiative and the Criminal Justice Collaborative Council; and

WHEREAS, Robert championed the creation of the Washtenaw Health Plan which provides health coverage to low-income Washtenaw County residents who do not have access to affordable health insurance; and

WHEREAS, Robert has served as the founding co-chair of the Washtenaw Literacy Coalition, working to implement a Blueprint to End Illiteracy in the County; and

WHEREAS, Robert's heartfelt mission to serve has fostered an environment of collaboration and information sharing, helping to improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of government services in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, Robert's congenial, professional and inclusive nature has encouraged an atmosphere of creativity, innovation, and committed, award-winning service across county departments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its sincere appreciation to Robert Guenzel for his dedication to the citizens of Washtenaw County, and wishes him happiness in his retirement and continued success in all his future endeavors.

Rolland Sizemore, Jr., Chair
Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

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