

Date: November 26, 2008
W.I.: 1111

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 3878

This resolution is presented to Linda Walls upon her retirement from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission after 27 years of employment.

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RE: Resolution of Appreciation for Linda Walls

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 3878

WHEREAS, Linda Walls is retiring from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission after 27 years of extraordinary service to the agency; and

WHEREAS, Linda started as a secretary/receptionist for the Planning Section, where she excelled at supporting several key committees, quickly working her way up the ladder and transitioning to the challenging position of administrative assistant, first for the Programming and Local Support Section, then in Legislation and Finance, which later morphed into the Legislation and Public Affairs (LPA) Section; and

WHEREAS, Linda came to MTC with a bachelor's degree in English and political science from San Francisco State University, and made use of her superior language skills on a daily basis to help colleagues look good to the outside world while saving the agency from much potential embarrassment; and

WHEREAS, for the past nearly 20 years, Linda has reigned as the administrative assistant for a series of high-profile managers on the rise, first for Hank Dittmar, then Steve Heminger, then Therese McMillan, who all went on to bigger and better assignments in and outside of the agency thanks in no small part to Linda's efforts; and

WHEREAS, Linda has continued to serve as right-hand woman for the current director of LPA, Randy Rentschler, deftly fielding constant calls from the press and legislators' offices, and keeping track of his complex schedule of legislative visits and media interviews while adhering to a strict timetable for producing Legislation Committee minutes and monthly committee packets; and

WHEREAS, political powerhouses in both capitals have come to depend on Linda for serving as a conduit to MTC, and Linda moved easily in the legislative world, conversing easily and professionally with power players in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Linda balances her highly developed left-brain attention to detail and other such functions with equally developed right-brain creativity, serving as impresario for the annual MTC Halloween party, and each year devising an inspired and highly original costume, from a panic-stricken Tippi Hedren fleeing from a “murder” of vicious crows, to a flower-festooned sprite of spring, outdoing herself in 2008 with a Day of the Dead motif; and

WHEREAS, Linda served as MTC’s in-house Martha Stewart, albeit a hip, Berkeley version of that diva of design, making even a simple section birthday celebration a cause for a hand-selected bouquet of fresh flowers and her trademark homemade, whole-grain scones and fruit galettes, and bringing a gourmet touch to the Halloween parties with her hand-tossed organic salads and walnut squares; and

WHEREAS, Linda outfitted several generations of MTCers with beautiful handmade jewelry and enlivened their walls with original prints by means of the holiday arts and crafts fairs that she organized year after year; and

WHEREAS, in her low-key yet persistent way, Linda limbered up hordes of MetroCenter staff through the wonders of noontime yoga, likely saving MTC, BART and the Association of Bay Area Governments untold dollars in workers’ compensation claims; and

WHEREAS, Linda has cultivated a rich life outside of the office, participating in a community chorus, a creative writing group, storytelling workshops and yoga classes, and maintaining close ties with her mother and many siblings, nieces and nephews while finding time to also accompany her husband Kirk on his craft fair gigs in the Bay Area, up and down California, and across the West; and

WHEREAS, Linda lived MTC's low-carbon mission every day by eschewing cars and taking public transit to work and nearly everywhere else, and for a long time riding her bicycle to work; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the commissioners and staff of MTC thank Linda for her many years of dedicated service to the agency, commend her for humanizing the workplace in so many ways and doing her part to make us all healthier and happier, and wish her a wholesome, fresh, natural, organic, low-sugar, high-energy, sustainable, carbon-neutral, locally grown, fair trade, slow-food, wheat-free, vegan, flexible and environmentally friendly retirement in which every month is August, with travel galore, and ample time for storytelling, writing and yoga.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Bill Dodd, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in Oakland, California, on November 26, 2008.