



PROCLAMATION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA HONORING CAROLINE FOWLER, CITY ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, Caroline Fowler has faithfully served the City of Santa Rosa and the Office of the City Attorney for 15 years, from November 2001 until September 2010 as an Assistant City Attorney and from September 2010 until June 2016 as the City Attorney; and

WHEREAS, Caroline Fowler is a lawyer of utmost integrity and exemplifies the finest qualities a lawyer can possess: dedication, common sense, innovative thinking, tenacity, the ability to analyze complex legal problems, quick thinking under pressure and unwavering strength and courage. She has relentlessly pursued perfection in the practice of law; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure in the Office of the City Attorney, which included a period of great recession and transition for the City of Santa Rosa, Caroline carried on the tradition of providing the highest quality legal services to the City by administering one of Sonoma County's finest legal offices with employees who take great pride in public service and maintain the highest ethical standards; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, the City Attorney's Office has continued to work proactively with all City Departments to maintain the highest legal standards and has successfully brought and defended some of the largest and most complex cases in Santa Rosa's history; and

WHEREAS, Caroline vigorously pursued on behalf of the City and the citizens of Santa Rosa environmental accountability and clean up in the City through the deft prosecution of numerous cases of environmental contamination; and

WHEREAS, with professionalism and legal expertise employed in a straightforward and determined manner, Caroline provided guidance in negotiating and reaching a resolution beneficial to the citizens of Santa Rosa regarding use of the Sonoma County landfill, resulting in releases of liability for the City and a long term solution for the County of Sonoma; and

WHEREAS, Caroline guided the City through numerous complex legal issues, including the successful re-adoption of the City's Charter in 2012, the settlement of an action by the Department of Justice to ensure ADA accessibility City-wide, the fair and balanced participation by the City in the newly formed Sonoma Clean Power, the addition of fair-minded campaign finance reform, the pursuit of better government through her leadership on the Open Government Task force and the adoption of a sunshine ordinance, to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, Caroline has dedicated her time and talents to serve on various boards including the State Bar of California's Public Law Section Executive Committee and the League of California Cities League Advocacy Group; and

WHEREAS, Caroline's legal expertise, ability to quickly grasp new areas of the law and provide exemplary and prompt legal guidance will be missed. Yet, even more so, we will miss her compassionate support of staff, her wit, humor and friendship; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Rosa and the Office of the City Attorney were extremely fortunate to have the benefit of Caroline Fowler's professionalism, dedicated counsel and leadership for so many years which has greatly contributed to the reputation of the City Attorney's Office in the legal community. She will be greatly missed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Santa Rosa expresses its sincere and heartfelt appreciation to **CAROLINE L. FOWLER** for her 15 years of distinguished service to the City of Santa Rosa.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John J. Sawyer".

Mayor John Sawyer

June 14, 2016