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CALIFORNIA

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Jeffrey **Thorsby**, Chief of Staff/Clerk of the Board

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**BOARD AGENDA MEMO**

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**MEETING DATE:** December 10, 2024

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Jeffrey Thorsby, Chief of Staff / Clerk of the Board

**SUBJECT:** Certificate of Recognition for Mike Dent for 30 years of public service for our County

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Present the Certificate of Recognition.

**FUNDING:** None

**BACKGROUND:**

Mike Dent served Nevada County for 30 years. His career in public service began in the Sheriff's Department as a Correctional Officer. Mike then moved to the Probation Department and spent most of his time there as a Program Manager. Subsequently, Mike served as the Director of Social Services and moved to his final role, from which he is retiring, as Director of Housing and Child Support Services.

Throughout his years serving Nevada County, Mike's accomplishments and contributions are significant. While serving as Program Manager in Probation, Mike was committed to the safety of his team, clients and the public, and as such he became the department's first force options instructor which included firearms, baton, and defensive tactics. Additionally, Mike focused on expanded collaboration with community partners helping to bring in a multi-agency wrap-around service to at-risk children in our community.

During his time as Director of Social Services, Mike was active in the Statewide Child Welfare Director Association, serving as Co-Chair of the Fiscal Committee. During the same period, Mike was integral in reducing the backlog of applications related to the Affordable Care Act, guided a transformation of classifications, and participated in statewide efforts to reform the out-of-home placement process of justice and welfare-involved youth.

Under Mike's leadership, Child Support Services is a gold star standard for excellence, consistently ranking among the top 5 performing counties statewide. His department collects and distributes nearly \$7 million in child support annually, ensuring families

receive the financial stability they need to thrive.

When the Board of Supervisors prioritized Affordable Housing and Homelessness, the County turned to Mike to move the needle on these important issues. Mike's numerous accomplishments on homelessness include developing a comprehensive plan, expanding and sustaining winter shelters, expanding emergency shelter beds, renovating the Odyssey House to expand treatment capacity, purchasing and remodeling the Coach & 4 Motel into permanent housing, purchasing a building for the Commons Resource Center, and much more. With regards to Affordable Housing, Mike played an integral role in developing around 200 units of affordable housing, serving hundreds of people, including Brunswick Commons, Empire Mine Courtyards, Lone Oak Apartments, Cashin's Field, and more.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, people experiencing homelessness were extraordinarily vulnerable, often with limited access to shelter or the ability to isolate when needed. Mike worked with FEMA to procure trailers, leased space from the Fairgrounds and was on-call to support the needs of vulnerable residents to recover in a safe environment and minimize spread in congregate settings. As the need for this waned, the trailers were transferred to FREED for permanent housing.

Mike Dent's commitment extends beyond his role at the County, as shown by his many organizational and board affiliations. Mike has been on the Hospice of the Foothills board for over six years and served as President of the California Association of Probation Services Administrators, member of the Child Support Director's Association, member of the California Welfare Director's Association, board member of the County's Continuum of Care and its regional oversight Board the Homeless Resources Council of the Sierra, and served as County Staff to the Adult and Family Services Commission.

The certificate offers formal recognition and thanks for Mike's 30 years with Nevada County and his many accomplishments.

Item Initiated: Mandy Stewart, Administrative Analyst II  
Approved: Jeffrey Thorsby, Chief of Staff / Clerk of the Board  
Submittal Date: November 18, 2024