

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



RESOLUTION

Christopher S. Kawai – Battalion Chief Los Angeles Fire Department

WHEREAS, Christopher S. Kawai was appointed to the Los Angeles City Fire Department on February 22nd, 1977 and retired on February 17, 2012 after providing thirty-five years of honorable and faithful service to the citizens of Los Angeles in various ranks within the Los Angeles Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Christopher S. Kawai achieved success in the most challenging of assignments and faithfully served the City of Los Angeles at Fire Stations 14, 46, 21, 22, 4, 10, 11, 1, and 26's; and

WHEREAS, Christopher S. Kawai promoted through the ranks of Engineer, Captain I and Captain II, and was promoted to Battalion Chief on February 15, 1998 and demonstrated outstanding leadership as he commanded Battalion 3, Battalion 11, the Planning Section, and Battalion 5; and

WHEREAS, during his career he fought a series of historical fires including the "Mandeville Canyon Brush Fire – 1978", "Bunker Hill Towers High Rise Fire – 1979", "Downtown Central Library Fire – 1986", "Metro Rail Tunnel Fire - 1991", "Federal Reserve Building Fire – 1998", and "Palomar Hotel Fire – 2001." In addition he responded to numerous large scale emergencies such as the "Civil Disturbance – 1992", "Echo Park Building Collapse – 2000", and "Chatsworth Metro Link Train Crash – 2008"; and

WHEREAS, Christopher S. Kawai during his service to the Los Angeles Fire Department also served the Nation as a member of the Department's Federal Emergency Management Agency Urban Search and Rescue Team, California Task Force 1 (CA-TF1) and responded to some noteworthy national events including the "World Trade Center Collapse – 2001", "2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah", and "Hurricane Katrina – 2005"; and


WHEREAS, Christopher S. Kawai has worked on countless special assignments and projects including Drill Tower Peer Group Instructor, Department Test Pit Engineer, Medical Dispatch Protocol Review Committee, Engineer Certification Interview Board, Tactical Alert Manual, 800-Series Rescue Ambulance Deployment Plan, Department Operational Guidelines, Engineer Practical Examination, Captain II Promotional Examination, Public Transportation Committee; and

WHEREAS, Christopher S. Kawai has served the citizens of Los Angeles in many communities including South Los Angeles, Exposition Park, Chinatown, South Park, Westlake, Lincoln Heights, West Adams, Harvard Heights, University Village, Jefferson Park, Mid-

DOF 1 & 2011

Wilshire, Pico Heights, Koreatown, Echo Park, Silverlake, Hancock Park, Wilshire Center, Hollywood, Whitley Heights, Los Feliz, Griffith Park, Hollywood Hills West, Cahuenga Pass, and Thai Town;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this resolution the Los Angeles City Council does hereby commend Battalion Chief CHRISTOPHER S. KAWAI for his 35 years of service to the citizens of Los Angeles. His service has helped to improve the quality of life for the residents of the City of Los Angeles. It is with great pleasure that we recognize your contributions and extend best wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement. Chris you are truly an angel in the City of Angels!

PRESENTED BY: 
TOM LABONGE
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 
ALL MEMBERS

ADOPTED

OCT 14 2011

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



RESOLUTION

Melvin Stevenson Los Angeles Police Department Air Support Division Sergeant I + 3

WHEREAS, Sergeant Melvin Stevenson joined the Los Angeles Police Department on February 25, 1980, and steadily rose through the ranks working a variety of assignments during his 31½-year career; and

WHEREAS, in January 1984, then Officer Stevenson was promoted to the rank of Police Officer III and assigned and transferred to 77th Street Area. He became an excellent training officer who could instill confidence in his assigned probationers to ensure they develop a myriad of police duties with full responsibility. In November 1984, he transferred to Wilshire Area, where he continued to be an outstanding role model among probationers and peers; and

WHEREAS, in October 1988, Officer Stevenson transferred to Southeast Area and became a Vice officer. He worked a variety of duties in an undercover capacity. During his tenure as a Vice officer, he proved to be a competent investigator despite of the stressful and risky situation he handled; and

WHEREAS, in October 1988, Officer Stevenson was selected to enter the then Helicopter Observer training program at Air Support Division. Mel became known for his professionalism, and tactical expertise in an officer safety situation, projecting a cool and calming demeanor during those incidents. Thus he became known as "*The MellMan*," delivering that quality of service to the citizens of Los Angeles and the men and women of this Department; and

WHEREAS, in September 1993, Mel was promoted to Police Officer II+6, Command Pilot. Mel flew a variety of special assigned missions during his tenure at Air Support along with working Air Support to Regular Operations, or ASTRO, patrol missions which he performed on a daily basis, accumulating over 9, 0000 hours of flight time; and

WHEREAS, in April 2005, Mel promoted to the rank of Sergeant I and was assigned as the Assistant Watch Commander at 77th Street Area, promoting to Sergeant II in December 2006, when he transferred to Pacific/LAX Division, and later to Communications Division; and

WHEREAS, in June 2009, Mel transferred back to Air Support Division as a Sergeant I+3, Assistant Watch Commander in charge of flight operations for ASTRO patrol. He is the only assigned Department employee to have worked Air Support Division as a Helicopter

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Observer, Senior Command Pilot, and Flying Sergeant Supervisor. Mel has logged over 10,000 hours of flight time during these assignments; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Stevenson is a very special individual whose personal integrity, professionalism, and compassion has earned him the respect from people he has encouraged and motivated. He will be sorely missed by those he has impacted in a positive and personal manner; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2011, Sergeant I+3 Melvin Stevenson ended his long and distinguished career as a loyal City servant with the Los Angeles Police Department:

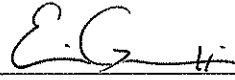
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Los Angeles by adoption of this Resolution congratulates Sergeant I+3 Melvin Stevenson for his 31½ years of loyal service and dedication to the Los Angeles Police Department and commends him for his commitment to duty and professionalism in serving the people of the City of Los Angeles. On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, best wishes are extended to Melvin Stevenson as he embarks on his new career as a retiree.

PRESENTED BY:



TOM LABONGE
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



ALL MEMBERS

ADOPTED

OCT 14 2011

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



RESOLUTION

Dr. Margaret Martin
Founder of the Harmony Project
Recipient of the 2011 Presidential Citizens Medal

WHEREAS, Dr. Margaret Martin, founder of the Harmony Project is Los Angeles, is receiving the *Presidential Citizens Medal* from President Obama this year, one of the highest and the most prestigious honors a civilian can receive, for replacing violence in children's lives with music; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin and her colleagues at the Harmony Project help at-risk students stay in school and grow healthier lives and communities through music; the organization has had tremendous success with children. Harmony Project provides music instruments and music instruction from early childhood to graduation of high school, all for free, in gang-dominated Los Angeles neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin believes that the Harmony Project is not trying to develop virtuosos. Instead, the organization uses the discipline of studying and practicing music to make better students and citizens. To participate in the program, students must remain enrolled in school. So over the past four years, 100% of the high school seniors in the program have graduated on time, and gone to college; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin not only considers the Harmony Project a social cause, but also a public health program; its music lessons are used to fortify kids emotionally, intellectually, and physically. The program is now so popular; it has a long waiting list and is expanding to new communities.

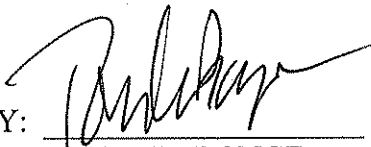
WHEREAS, on November 4th, 2009 in a White House ceremony, Dr. Martin accepted the *Coming Up Taller* Award from First Lady Michelle Obama, on behalf of Harmony Project. Administered by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in association with the National Endowment for the Arts, *Coming Up Taller* is the nation's highest honor for an arts-based youth program. Harmony Project was the only California program to receive the award that year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin founded the Harmony Project in 2001 to promote youth development after observing LA gang members stop at a Hollywood market to listen to a kid playing Brahms on a small violin. Dr. Martin realized those gang members would rather be doing what the kid was doing, but would never have the chance. She decided to dedicate her life to making quality arts education available to those in the most underserved, gang reduction zones of Los Angeles; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Martin is a playwright, composer, lyricist, and holds a doctorate in Public Health from UCLA in 'Community Health Science', and additional advanced degrees in Behavior Science, Health Education, and Population and Family Health. Dr. Martin resides in Los Angeles with her three children:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Los Angeles by adoption of this Resolution congratulates Dr. Margaret Martin's invaluable contribution to the success of the Harmony Project. Under the stewardship of Dr. Martin, the Harmony Project brings discipline, hope and joy – and transforms families and communities through music. Dr. Martin, you are truly an angel in the City of Angels!

PRESENTED BY: 
TOM LABONGE
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 
ALL MEMBERS

ADOPTED
OCT 14 2011
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

Thomas P. Mann

WHEREAS, we take great pleasure in congratulating Detective II Thomas Mann upon his retirement, effective October 31, 2011, from the Los Angeles Police Department after 34 plus years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, Detective Mann started his career with the Los Angeles Police Department as a Police officer on September 26, 1977; advanced to Police Officer III in June 5, 1988; promoted to Detective on February 20, 1994; and advanced to Detective II on July 5, 1998; and

WHEREAS, Detective Mann, during his distinguished career, served with honor in the following assignments, each of which added to his knowledge, experience, and expertise: North Hollywood Area, Communication Division, Rampart Area, Hollenbeck Area, and Burglary-Auto Theft Division, Commercial Crimes Division; and

WHEREAS, Detective Mann is a graduate, having worked a variety of assignments including patrol, narcotics, and vice; and, as a detective working auto theft, burglary, receiver team, juvenile, robbery and homicide; and

WHEREAS, Detective Mann served for over 14 years in assignments of patrol division, traffic division, detective divisions, and Burglary Special Section, Commercial Crimes Division; and

WHEREAS, Detective Mann's exemplary duty performance is best demonstrated by the numerous commendations and exemplary performance evaluation reports he has received from supervisors, commanding officers, private citizens, community and volunteer groups, other law enforcement agencies, and have received distinguish honor for LAPD Police Medal; and

WHEREAS, Detective Mann resides in the City of Santa Clarita with his lovely wife of nearly 38 years, Terrie, both of them equally proud of their daughter, Amber Renolds, age 31 years, and their son Tommy, age 27 years, and their grandchildren, Lucas Jack Renolds, age 4 years and Faye Raye Renolds, age 6 months:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, by the adoption of this resolution, the Los Angeles City Council along with the Mayor, City Attorney and City Controller do hereby commend Detective Thomas P. Mann for his integrity, honesty and outstanding record, commitment to excellence and devotion to duty. We extend our congratulations and best wishes on your retirement from the Los Angeles Police Department.

October 14, 2011

ADOPTED

OCT 14 2011

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

Presented by:


Dennis P. Zine

Seconded by:


All Council

JILL NILES

WHEREAS, JILL Niles was born and raised in Southern California; and

WHEREAS, JILL Niles began her career with the City of Los Angeles on January 26, 1981; and

WHEREAS, JILL Niles has worked a variety of assignments over her 30 year career with the Department including Venice Division, 77th Street Division, Pacific Division, Hollywood Division, Van Nuys Division, Devonshire Division, Metropolitan Division and West Valley Division; and

WHEREAS, JILL Niles was assigned to Metropolitan Division as a Platoon Leader on October 26, 1997; and

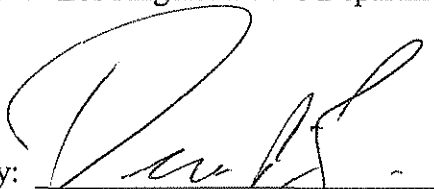
WHEREAS, JILL Niles was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and was assigned to Van Nuys Division on September 27, 1998; and

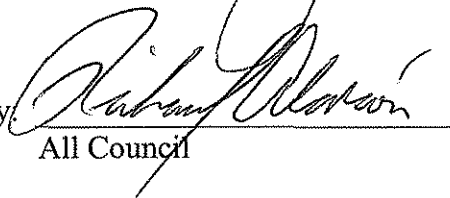
WHEREAS JILL Niles has spent the better part of 12 years working as a Lieutenant Watch Commander at West Valley Area, where she been the subject of many accolades and commendations; and

WHEREAS JILL Niles has proudly served the City of Los Angeles for over 30 years:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this resolution the Los Angeles City Council, along with the Mayor, City Attorney and City Controller, do hereby commend Lieutenant Jill Niles for her outstanding accomplishments, her leadership and her positive impact on the morale of her fellow colleagues of the Los Angeles Police Department.

October 13, 2011

Presented by: 
Dennis P. Zine

Seconded by: 
All Council

ADOPTED

OCT 14 2011

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

OCT 14 2011



Resolution
Supervising Assistant City Attorney
Cory M. Brente

WHEREAS, Cory M. Brente is the Supervising Assistant City Attorney for the Police Litigation Unit, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, Cory Brente this year celebrates his 20th year as the only original City Attorney assigned to the Police Litigation Unit, formed on October 28, 1991 by then Chief of Police Daryl F. Gates and City Attorney James K. Hahn in order to defend the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department involved in civil litigation arising out of police incidents; and

WHEREAS, Cory Brente and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office have developed a unique partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department. This joint partnership has created a first-class investigative support team directly involved in the defense of police litigation cases; and

WHEREAS, Cory Brente has personally tried over 30 Police litigation cases and has never lost a case for the City and Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Cory Brente is an esteemed member of the Tactics Training Review Committee and has provided invaluable legal insight and expertise regarding the best practices in tactics, firearms, use of force policy, and training to the recruit and in-service Police Department training curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Cory Brente is a founding member of the Professional Resource for Officer Assistance in Civil Trial (PROACT) and has been a keynote speaker during the Litigation Overview Presentation for the past 14 years; and


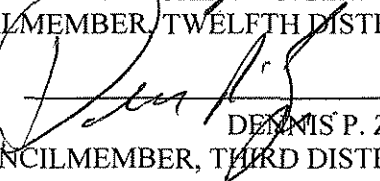
WHEREAS, Cory Brente is one of the featured attorneys for the elite Metropolitan Division's "D" platoon and regularly provides specialized legal training in Crowd Control and Crisis Negotiation; and

WHEREAS, Cory Brente has handled civil litigation cases involving the Los Angeles Police Department Special Investigation Section since 1992, and despite the significant challenges often associated with such incidents, never lost a case; and

WHEREAS, Cory Brente is an honorary team element member of Special Investigation Section and regularly participates in training days conducted at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles City Council does hereby congratulate Supervising Assistant City Attorney Cory M. Brente for 20 years of service in the Police Litigation Unit, and commends his hard work, personal sacrifices and dedication to the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department, as well as his commitment to excellence and fidelity to the law enforcement community and the City of Los Angeles.

ADOPTED
OCT 14 2011
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

PRESENTED BY: 
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
COUNCILMEMBER, TWELFTH DISTRICT
SECONDED BY: 
DENNIS P. ZINE
COUNCILMEMBER, THIRD DISTRICT

OCT 14 2011



RESOLUTION
Gary M. Thomas

WHEREAS, Gary M. Thomas is Senior Vice President and Creative Director of Aaron, Thomas & Associates in Chatsworth, an outstanding company based in the San Fernando Valley Community of Chatsworth in Council District 12;

WHEREAS, Gary was born in the San Fernando Valley where he has lived most of his life; he attended California State University, Northridge and was a member of Lambda Chi Fraternity;

WHEREAS, Aaron & Thomas specializes in creative consulting, graphic design, printing and direct mail services for the political sector and the general corporate market throughout the United States, and become the region's most respected printer because of its unmatched quality, speed, and customer service; and

WHEREAS, Gary Thomas has selflessly given his time and energy to community service, volunteerism and the business community in the San Fernando Valley over the last 37 years, driven by a desire to make our community a better place to live and work. Gary has served in leadership positions and raised funds for Chambers of Commerce, anti-gang programs, youth development organizations, leadership and business development programs, and non-profit organizations that provide valuable services to those in need; and

WHEREAS, Gary helped raise over \$5 million for the nearly 30 non-profit organizations he has served in leadership positions; he is responsible for creating many innovative fundraising methods among Valley non-profits; he has served on the Board of the Boys & Girls Club of the West for the last 13 years and is currently Chairman of the Board for the fifth year. Gary has served in leadership positions with the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley; United Chambers of the San Fernando Valley; the Valley Business Corps; and The Wellness Community for the Valley and Ventura. Gary has also been active with the San Fernando Valley Business Advisory Commission, and the San Fernando Valley Charitable Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Gary is the shining example of what makes the San Fernando Valley such a special place, and is admired and loved by his family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, partners and employees; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his decades of community service in the San Fernando Valley, Gary Thomas was the 2011 recipient of the Fernando Awards, the Valley's highest recognition of volunteerism and civic accomplishment:

THEREFORE BE IT NOW RESOLVED that by the adoption of this resolution, the City of Los Angeles does hereby congratulate Gary Thomas on receiving the Fernando Award and wishes him health and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

ADOPTED

OCT 14 2011

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

All Members, Mayor

PRESENTED BY:


MITCHELL ENGLANDER
COUNCILMEMBER, TWELFTH DISTRICT

SECONDED BY:


DENNIS P. ZINE
COUNCILMEMBER, THIRD DISTRICT

OCT 14 2011