

Department of Public Health
SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA



Resolution No. 02-09

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING GENE MARIE O'CONNELL'S 32 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AND HONORING MS. O'CONNELL FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS SHE HAS MADE TO THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

WHEREAS, Gene Marie O'Connell served the City and County of San Francisco with dedication and loyalty for 25 years; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. O'Connell's began her professional career 32 years ago at University of San Francisco California; and,

WHEREAS, she started at San Francisco General Hospital as a per diem nurse and through hard work her performance resulted in a series of promotions including Director of Staff Development and Research, Director of Emergency Services, Director of Nursing and Chief Operating Officer and in 1998 Chief Executive Officer; and,

WHEREAS, her leadership brought local and national recognition of SFGH's high quality and patient care; and,

WHEREAS, Gene appreciated the importance of the hospital's trauma services, achieving designation by the American College of Surgeons and Joint Commission accreditation for stroke care; and,

WHEREAS, Gene steered the hospital to gain multiple awards including the 2008 American Medical Association Ethical Force Programs Award for its patient-centered communications initiative; the 2007 Ambulatory Pediatric Association Health Care Delivery Award; the 2006 Joint Commission Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of San Francisco General's valuable contribution to the Hospitals, Language and Culture Initiative; and the 2002 American Hospital Association's Nova Award; and,

WHEREAS, Gene also helped General Hospital become the only hospital in San Francisco to receive the World Health Organization's Baby-Friendly certification; and,

WHEREAS, Gene was appropriately honored this year with the "Spirit of the General" award from the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation for her grace, sense of humor and generosity of spirit which inspired all those who worked with and for her; and,

WHEREAS, Gene's persistence, drive and single-minded commitment to the mission of caring for vulnerable populations was unstoppable; never more so than during the campaign to pass Proposition A, funding the rebuild of San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center where a record-setting 84 percent of San Francisco voters said yes to that bond; and,

WHEREAS, Gene is leaving City employment to take a well-deserved break and start a new chapter of her life; and,

WHEREAS, Gene's talent, energy, modesty and mentoring will be greatly missed; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City and County's loss will be Gene O'Connell's family's gain; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission honors Gene Marie O'Connell on this 3rd day of March 2009.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of March 3, 2009 adopted the foregoing resolution.


James M. Soos
Acting Health Commission Executive Secretary