



County of Sonoma
State of California

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ATTEST: JUL 25 2018

SHERYL BRATTON, Clerk/Secretary
BY Woodson
DEPUTY CLERK/ASST. SECRETARY

Date: July 24, 2018

Item Number: 20

Resolution Number: 18-0296

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California,
Encouraging the Construction of Homes Meeting Voluntary Visitability Standards**

Whereas, in January, 2005, the oldest of the baby boomers turned 60. In the next 15 years, Sonoma County's senior population between 60 and 79 is expected to balloon from 64,859 to 127,641; and

Whereas, 31% of people 65 and older, and 7% of people age 18-65, have mobility disabilities, in addition to the thousands of people who experience temporary mobility limitations each year; and

Whereas, Visitability is an inclusive design approach that integrates a limited number of crucial accessibility features, such as a no-step entry, doorways that allow at 32 inches clear passage, and at least a half bathroom on the main floor, into newly-built homes; and

Whereas, the cost of constructing a home with basic accessibility features is minimal, while the cost and disruption associated with retrofitting a home to include such features are substantial; and

Whereas, housing characterized by Visitability promotes social stability, productivity and sustainability through provision of a safer, more accommodating home environment, enabling residents to weather life's changes and "age in place" without being dislocated from one's family or community; and

Whereas, the overwhelming majority of housing in Sonoma County does not have even minimal accessibility features; and

Whereas, 5,100 homes in Sonoma County were destroyed by the October, 2017 fires, adding to the already limited housing; and

Whereas, the County has demonstrated its commitment to promoting "aging in place" and to account for the diverse needs of all segments of the population;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors urges all homeowners, builders, and architects to include at least basic Visitability in all new housing construction in both the public and private sectors; and

Be It Further Resolved that a designated County permitting agency make available, with all housing construction permits, information on the features, benefits and ways to achieve Visitability.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Absent

Rabbitt: Aye

Zane: Aye

Hopkins: Aye

Gore: Absent

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2

Abstain: 0

So Ordered.