

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-274

RESOLUTION HONORING RETIRING COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
DARLENE KLOEPPPEL

WHEREAS, Darlene Kloepfel has served the citizens of Champaign County as its first County Executive from December 3, 2018, until November 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Champaign County Executive, Darlene Kloepfel acted as the presiding officer of the Champaign County Board and staffed the various committees, study sessions and task forces of the Board, including the Committee of the Whole, County Facilities, Highway & Transportation, Environment & Land Use, Labor, Litigation, Labor-Management Health Insurance, Strategic Planning, Public Aid Appeals, Lincoln Legacy, Community Violence Prevention Task Force and Broadband Task Force; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Champaign County Executive, Darlene Kloepfel served as the Champaign County representative on the Champaign Consortium Executive Committee, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission Board, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District Board, Local Workforce Investment Area 17 Chief Elected Officials Board, Metropolitan Intergovernmental Council, Willard Airport Advisory Council, Economic Development Council Board, Central Illinois Land Bank Authority Board & Executive Committee, Campus-Community Compact for Racial Justice, Regional Emergency Planning Board, Local Emergency Planning Board, METCAD-911 Board, and Champaign County First Coalition; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Champaign County Executive, Darlene Kloepfel prepared the annual budget for County Board consideration and provided administrative support for all county officials with regard to facilities, information technology, human resources and risk management, as well as providing support for departments not under other countywide elected officials[, including Supervisor of Assessments, Board of Review, Planning & Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals, Animal Control, GIS, Highway, Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Boards and Veteran's Commission]. During her leadership, a 6-year IT plan was implemented to modernize the county's 40-year-old technology, 8 positions were added to the county's staffing schedule, all employees were moved to at least a \$15/hour wage, an employee assistance plan and 407(b) retirement plan advisor were added to the county's benefit package, consolidation of the county jails was initiated, County Plaza was purchased to accommodate the relocation of the Sheriff's Office and other departments, a new financial system was implemented and the general budget was returned to a healthy balance; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Champaign County Executive, Darlene Kloepfel served as the Liquor Commissioner for unincorporated areas of the county and named appointees to the various boards and commissions requiring county appointment; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Champaign County Executive, Darlene Kloepfel assembled the county's Emergency Operations Policy Committee in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing leadership in partnership with the county's municipalities through

balanced and comprehensive attention to all issues requiring deliberation and action by elected officials throughout Champaign County for the safety of county residents. In the wake of the pandemic, Executive Kloeppel applied on behalf of the county for allocated \$41 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding and coordinated its distribution through contracts according to the County Board's plan for eligible projects to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. She assisted other county and municipal officials to access state and federal funding that became available for infrastructure, community services and reimbursement of expenses incurred as a result of the pandemic, bringing additional resources into the county; and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure as Champaign County Executive, Darlene Kloeppel facilitated adoption of new partnerships to stimulate development and improve efficiency of government services in Champaign County, including introducing the Commercial PACE Program for financing sustainable energy construction, joining the Central Illinois Land Bank Authority for rural property demolition, resale and rehabilitation, and consolidating many municipal tornado siren systems to save costs of system management through one contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the Champaign County Board seeks to publicly recognize the commitment and dedication of Darlene Kloeppel who served the citizens of Champaign County as an elected official, providing stable and measured leadership in the development and implementation of good management of the county's resources and leadership during a time of change to a new form of county governance and during a worldwide pandemic.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Champaign County Board hereby recognizes the service of Darlene Kloeppel and the benefit that service brought to the people of Champaign County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be presented to Darlene Kloeppel in recognition of her years of public service and leadership to the citizens of Champaign County.

**PRESENTED, ADOPTED, APPROVED and RECORDED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.D. 2022.

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Kyle Patterson, Chair  
Champaign County Board

ATTEST:

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Aaron Ammons, County Clerk  
and *Ex-Officio* Clerk of the  
Champaign County Board

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Summers, County Executive  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_