

Agenda Item # 4

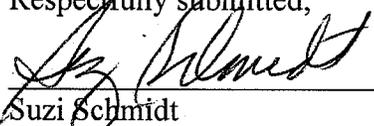
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COUNTY BOARD, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
ADJOURNED REGULAR SEPTEMBER, A.D., 2007 SESSION  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD:

As Chairman of the County Board, I present herewith a resolution in support of the Board of Health's Nomination of Dale Galassie, Executive Director of the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center, for an Illinois Public Health Association Distinguished Service Award; and request its adoption.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Suzi Schmidt  
County Board Chairman

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Dale W. Galassie, M.A., M.S., has served the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center as Executive Director since 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, since the beginning of Mr. Galassie's tenure, primary care visits (general and family medicine, WIC, dental, prenatal and cervical/breast cancer screenings) increased to approximately 150,000 per year due to the establishment of the Federally Qualified Health Care Center (FQHC), with Mr. Galassie steering major renovations and new clinic projects in critical need areas of Waukegan, North Chicago, Round Lake Beach and Highland Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Galassie was instrumental in overhauling the Health Department's food protection program in the mid-1990s from a largely bureaucratic, regulatory and punitive approach, to a constructive, educational process. While considered controversial at the time, those changes resulted in the Health Department receiving the 1999 Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award, a prestigious national honor that only one in approximately 3,000 health departments receives each year; and

**WHEREAS**, following September 11, 2001 local health departments acquired significant responsibilities in bioterrorism preparedness and emergency response. Mr. Galassie was among a regional group of health directors, whose departments received national recognition as "Public Health Ready" by the National Association of County and City Health Officials in 2006, for achieving specific goals in preparedness planning, individual work competence and readiness through exercises; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2006, Mr. Galassie spearheaded a revitalized plan to use Lake County's 165 polling places as distribution points. This plan, which received the attention of several national and state entities, utilized the concept of bringing emergency medications to the community, rather than requiring resident attendance at massive clinics, where crowd control, safety and security could be of concern. Mr. Galassie received the endorsement of the Lake County Clerk, whose assistance was indispensable, as well as the strong support of Lake County's municipalities, fire and law enforcement agencies, school superintendents and polling site managers; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his tenure, Mr. Galassie's lobbying efforts have brought back millions of dollars in state and federal funding for Department building projects, program expansion, and direct service assistance. Today, two-thirds of the Department's \$66 million budget is grant funds, fees and reimbursables; and

**WHEREAS**, one of Mr. Galassie's top priorities has been to enhance working relationships with all constituencies, including local and state government, businesses and other human service providers. He was a strong organizational voice in the establishment of the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (NIPHC), an organization of local public health officials dedicated to strengthening the capacity of member health departments in northern Illinois and encouraging regional, rather than individual department action on population based needs; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006, Mr. Galassie initiated a "Smoke Free Lake County" resolution, which passed the Board of Health and Lake County Board, and which called for aggressive Department efforts to encourage Lake County communities to adopt smoke-free ordinances. The proactive activities of the Department's Tobacco Free program subsequently lent momentum to smoke-free ordinances in 11 municipalities, and finally, the adoption of a smoke-free ordinance

for unincorporated Lake County in 2007. It was widely felt that the "Lake County Smoke Free" clean indoor air ordinance helped build momentum for the passage of the Smoke-free Illinois Act, which went into effect on January 1, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Galassie has served as Vice President of the National Association of City and County Health Officials, President of the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium, and President of the Illinois Primary Health Care Association; and

**WHEREAS**, under his direction, the Department and the Board of Health embarked on an aggressive strategic plan process, segments of which resulted in greater public health accountability, budgetary stability, and JCAHCO accreditation (Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations) for the two largest patient-oriented service areas.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Lake County Board recognizes the dedication that Mr. Galassie has made to public health in Lake County, the State of Illinois, and the nation during his tenure as Executive Director; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Lake County Board strongly supports the nomination of Dale W. Galassie, M.A., M.S., for the Illinois Public Health Association's Distinguished Service Award.

**DATED, at WAUKEGAN, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**, on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D., 2008.