

**BENTON-FRANKLIN DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH**

IN THE MATTER OF, ]  
HONORING DR. AMY PERSON, ] RESOLUTION NO. 20-02  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER, ]  
FOR HER COVID-19 PANDEMIC, ]  
MITIGATION WORK ]

WHEREAS, The pandemic caused by the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues to significantly disrupt local business, schools, healthcare systems and our economy in general, including the every-day lives of individuals throughout our communities; and

WHEREAS, The spread of COVID-19 poses significant risks to the nearly 300,000 residents of our bi-county area; and

WHEREAS, Healthcare workers, caregivers, first responders and many others work tirelessly to carefully and effectively identify, advise and treat victims of COVID-19, in addition to those with other ailments and sicknesses, often while risking personal exposure to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Amy Person, as an employee of the Benton-Franklin Health District, is responsible for providing guidance and recommendations to provide all people in our communities the opportunity to live full productive lives by promoting healthy behaviors, preventing disease, advancing equity and protecting our environment; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Person holds degrees from the University of Chicago in chemistry (with a concentration in psychology), the University of Illinois in medicine, and the University of Wisconsin in health care informatics (with a certificate in geographic information systems); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Person has experience as a transport physician for high-risk and critically ill patients, a pediatrician for high-risk and underserved populations, an urgent care physician providing acute care pediatrics, and a principal investigator for spatial epidemiology and disease prediction; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Person has served on governing and advisory boards for the Washington State Medical Association and the Kadlec Regional Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Person is held in esteem by the highly educated and experienced workforce of the Benton-Franklin Health District, local hospitals and other health service organizations throughout our counties and state; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Person and the employees of the Benton-Franklin Health District are navigating unprecedented challenges related to preventing exposure and the spread of COVID-19 in Benton and Franklin counties to keep our residents healthy and safe; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Person works tirelessly, above and beyond the nature of her employment requirements, to provide best and consistent guidance based on the most recent and reputable scientific health knowledge about the changing and novel health landscape facing our counties as a result of COVID-19, providing critical information and comprehensive data to ensure the welfare of our residents; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Person has addressed the Franklin and Benton county communities through three dozen press conferences since March; during which time she has made near-weekly presentations to various community groups and conducted countless print, television and radio news interviews; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Person is publicly outspoken on community-wide use of safety protocols to reopen our businesses, and has made the welfare of our community youth a front and center issue, advocating for the value and safety of in-school learning; and

WHEREAS, our locally supported news organizations have recognized the value of her guidance through a weekly “Dr. Amy Person Answers Your Questions” TV news segment and endorsement from the Tri-City Herald editorial board; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Person as a result of her visible leadership has been subjected to harassment and hostility, via email and in person, by members of our communities who either do not want to follow safety precautions or believe such precautions are inadequate; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Person’s perseverance and steadfast efforts, sacrifices, guidance and recommendations have saved lives, and are deserving of acknowledgment and appreciation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Benton-Franklin District Board of Health desires to promote pandemic safety behaviors to preserve the life and health of the people of Benton and Franklin counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Health expresses great appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Amy Person for her selfless sacrifices and efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 and respond to the unprecedented challenges facing our communities as a result COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Health urges all community members to support the work accomplished by the dedicated employees of the Benton-Franklin Health District and comply with guidance provided through the leadership of Dr. Amy Person.

Dated ..... day of ..... , 2020

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Chairman of the Board

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Public Health District Administrator