

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 657

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor Jim Shulman for nearly thirty years of service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, we take great pleasure in recognizing a humble public servant who never seeks acclaim or claims credit for himself, instead quietly but effectively working for the benefit of this State and his community; and

WHEREAS, renowned as an exceptional leader and a man of great kindness and integrity, Jim Shulman has served the State of Tennessee with distinction for nearly thirty years in a variety of roles, both in the executive and legislative branches; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Vanderbilt Law School, Mr. Shulman began his illustrious career with the State as the lead legal counsel for the Department of Finance and Administration under Governor Ned McWherter and then spent six years as Chief of Staff for Speaker of the House Jimmy Naifeh; and

WHEREAS, he currently serves as the executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability, in which role he has focused on using data to drive performance, specifically in the areas of senior meals and senior hunger, senior transportation, and efficiencies in home care services; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Shulman's tenure, the Commission provided administrative support for a \$35 million grant that directly helped thousands of older Tennesseans with legal, dental, transportation, and home repair assistance; over the last several months, he has led the effort to vaccinate the State's senior population against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Jim Shulman responded to the lure of political ambition and answered the call of elected office in 1999, when he ran for and was elected to Nashville's Metropolitan Council; representing the 25<sup>th</sup> District, he was re-elected in 2003; and

WHEREAS, during his initial term on the Metropolitan Nashville Council, Mr. Shulman chaired the city's Budget Committee, the Transportation Committee, and the Public Works Committee; a stalwart advocate for good government, he pushed through major zoning changes, helped lead the fight for more accountability in city funding, and worked on emergency preparedness concerns; and

WHEREAS, after relinquishing public office due to term limits, he reentered the fray in 2015, when he ran for and was elected to an At-Large seat on the Metropolitan Council; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Jim Shulman was elected Vice Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County; re-elected in 2019, he continues to serve as Vice Mayor in addition to fulfilling his duties with the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability; and

WHEREAS, Jim Shulman was recently selected from a nationwide pool of qualified candidates to serve as chief executive officer of Safe Haven Family Shelter, the premier shelter-to-housing program that serves families experiencing homelessness in Middle Tennessee, effective June 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a longtime champion of the organization and its critical mission, Mr. Shulman served as Safe Haven's board president for three years (2008 to 2010) and has been a member of its advisory board for five years (2016 to 2020); and

WHEREAS, he also played an integral role in the agency's last capital campaign and is a recipient of the Safe Haven Hero Award; and

WHEREAS, after he assumes the mantle of leadership at Safe Haven, Jim Shulman may occasionally long for the simpler days of his youth when he donned a cow costume and gave away ice cream; and

WHEREAS, a native of Johnson City, Mr. Shulman is the son of Herb and Barbara Shulman and the brother of Bill Shulman, Bette Shulman, Susan Taylor, Connie Shulman, Helen Lupton-Smith, and Johnny Shulman; and

WHEREAS, he is grateful for the love and support he receives from his wife, Lori Speligene Shulman, who he met during his Vanderbilt days and married on May 28, 1983; and

WHEREAS, after thirty-eight years of happy marriage, the Shulmans are proud to count their blessings as the parents of two daughters and their partners, Audrey Shulman and Jamie Agin and Madeline and William Semple, and they are absolutely entranced by Tillye Semple, their first and so far, only grandchild, who just turned one; and

WHEREAS, although we are greatly saddened that Jim Shulman is leaving our universe, we are pleased that he is doing so to further the worthy mission of keeping families experiencing homelessness together by providing housing and other services; and

WHEREAS, we can think of no more experienced nor more dedicated leader to tackle this Herculean task, and we wish him all the best; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Jim Shulman for nearly thirty years of outstanding service to the State of Tennessee, salute his ongoing commitment to public service, and congratulate him upon his new position as CEO of Safe Haven Family Shelter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.