



Proclamation No. 2021-16

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
Dr. Richard Bullough
FOR 29 YEARS OF SERVICE IN PUBLIC HEALTH
SUMMIT COUNTY, UTAH

Whereas, Richard Bullough was born the son of Dr. Robert Vern and Dolores Bullough in Salt Lake City, Utah. He graduated from Utah State University with a bachelors in fisheries biology in 1983 and received his masters' degree in exercise physiology in 1986 from Colorado State University (CSU). Rich went on to acquire a doctorate degree in nutritional biochemistry at CSU in 1992; and

Whereas, Rich met his partner, Kirsten Whetstone in Logan, Utah, while working in a bike shop. Kirsten was shopping for a helmet and hit it off with Rich after discovering they shared the same birthday. They married in 1985 at Bishop's Lodge in Tesuque near Santa Fe, New Mexico; and

Whereas, Rich and Kirsten made Summit County their home in 1994; and

Whereas, Rich and Kirsten's son, Garrett Clarke Bullough was born in 1995 and attended K-12 grade in the Park City School District. Garrett is in his last semester at the University of Utah in Civil Engineering and works in surveying with a special interest in hydrology and wastewater. Garret also enjoys soccer, biking, hiking, fishing, rafting, trail running, and is a talented Nordic ski racer; and

Whereas, Rich has more than 28 years of management experience in public health and related fields at the state and local levels; and

Whereas, from 1999 to the early 2000s, Rich managed chronic disease programs at the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and served as a board member and one of the founders of the Utah Partnership on Healthy Weight, a not-for-profit organization focused on coordinating anti-obesity efforts in Utah; and

Whereas, Rich is a former National Institutes of Health research fellow, a graduate of the Great Basin Public Health Leadership Institute, and is a former instructor of health promotion and adjunct professor of nutrition at the University of Utah; and

Whereas, Rich has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and abstracts related to chronic disease, systems change, data measurement and utilization, and public health practice; and

Whereas, Rich has made significant contributions to the community through roles on multiple boards and commissions, including the American Diabetes Association (Utah Chapter), Arthritis Foundation (Utah Chapter), National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, and the UDOH Obesity Coordination Workgroup, overseeing the development of Utah's Obesity Report and State Plan; and

Whereas, locally in Summit County, Rich has served on and made invaluable contributions to numerous Boards and Councils including, but not limited to, People's Health Clinic, Valley Behavioral Health, Soldier Hollow Board of Directors, and Summit County Behavioral Health Executive Committee; and

Whereas, Rich retires as the Summit County Health Officer, a post he has held for the past 11 years; and

Whereas, in 2016, Rich brought the issue of mental health and substance abuse to the Summit County Council as an early adopter of how counties and public health agencies could play a role with this systemic community problem; and

Whereas, during his tenure as Summit County Health Officer, the Sustainability program moved under Rich, allowing him and the Board of Health to innovate by championing environmental sustainability issues within the community as a public health issue, and facilitate collaboration

between health promotion, environmental quality, air quality monitoring, and water concurrency to advance the ball on the County's ambitious sustainability goals; and

Whereas, early in his tenure with the County, Rich identified vulnerabilities in the public health system and started preparing for an inevitable public health emergency, which has paid off, not only in the recent COVID-19 pandemic, but also in pushing the Summit County government to prepare for any type of emergency event; and

Whereas, most recently, Rich served as the incident commander of Summit County's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and lead the team responsible for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to Summit County residents and other Utahns. Under Rich's leadership, Summit County was the first local government in Utah to issue public health orders to protect residents and visitors from exposure to the COVID-19 virus, including Utah's first "stay at home" order and facemask mandate, orders that were later adopted by other jurisdictions in the state; and

Whereas, Summit County's vaccination program has been a model for the state and the nation. Over 77% of Summit County's eligible population is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, the highest vaccination rate per capita in the State of Utah and one of the highest in the nation; and

Whereas, Rich, through his management style, high sense of ethics, and resiliency has demonstrated to the Health Department and the Summit County organization what "right looks like" when it comes to selfless public service; and

Whereas, Rich has mentored, advised, and guided numerous state and county employees during their careers, many of which have provided significant contributions to their respective organizations. As the Summit County Health Officer, Rich built an efficient, productive, and inspiring work environment that places employee development, employee health, and teamwork first; and

Whereas, Rich views Summit County Health Department as the best group of public health professionals in the state of Utah, and among the best in the nation. He is amazed by the entire Summit County team and the quality of people he has had the privilege to work with in the County; and

Whereas, Rich attributes his professional successes to his loving and supportive wife, son, and 90+-year old parents who he is blessed to still have in his life; and

Whereas, in retirement, Rich will enjoy taking and printing black and white photographs, fishing more, and doing extended river and road trips, as well as house projects and international travel. The first thing he will do after he retires is a kayaking trip on the Mississippi River, a bucket item list of his, with a group of friends from his fisheries and whitewater guiding days; and

Whereas, Rich should be on notice that because of his contributions to the state and to Summit County, he will most likely be contacted by the County Manager or the County Council to serve in a significant role in our community again.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Summit County Council does hereby recognize Dr. Richard Bullough for his 11 years of service to Summit County and his overall 29-year career in public health, and thanks him for his tireless efforts to improve the health, safety and welfare of the community, and celebrates his commitment to making Summit County an all-around better place for those who live and visit here.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of August 2021
SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCIL

Glenn Wright, Chair

Christopher F. Robinson, Co-Chair

Roger Armstrong

Doug Clyde

Malena Stevens

Evelyn Furse, County Clerk