

Proclamation

International Youth Day

August 12, 2024

WHEREAS, International Youth Day, observed on August 12 of every year and observed by many countries, is recognized and endorsed by the United Nations as a day dedicated to raising awareness of the potential of young people as bringers of peace, shapers of our future and agents of change; and

WHEREAS, our immense youth population, as the generation of the future, will be faced with the task of finding solutions to many of our toughest challenges and issues, both present and impending; and

WHEREAS, Children and Youth are one of Redwood City's top strategic priorities, underscoring the City's commitment to creating opportunities for our young population to grow, learn and play in healthy and safe environments; and

WHEREAS, the City's goals related to youth focus on improving the lives of Redwood City's children and youth by increasing the number and affordability of childcare spaces, opportunities for family entertainment, family-friendly businesses and youth activities, as well as opportunities for youth to provide meaningful input; and

WHEREAS, the Vibrant Opportunities for Involvement, Community, and Empowerment (VOICE) Program was co-developed with youth in our community and in partnership with Youth Leadership Institute (YLI), Pal Center, City of Redwood City staff, and community-based organization leaders, to support more local youth leaders to better understand civic processes, especially in regards to local boards, commissions, and committees in Redwood City, North Fair Oaks, and San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, since September 2023, the VOICE team has made great strides in empowering youth leaders to continue their civic engagement journey beyond high school. By the end of the program, participants had the readiness skills to apply for a Redwood City or San Mateo County board, commission, or committee and will be launching its second cohort this fall; and

WHEREAS, the 6-month program, funded by Get Healthy San Mateo and held at the Pal Center and Redwood City City Hall, in partnership with the City Manager's Office, City Clerk's Office, and community-based organizations, engaged 15 youth and sparked positive change by harnessing youth voices and power to create more equitable and inclusive communities; and

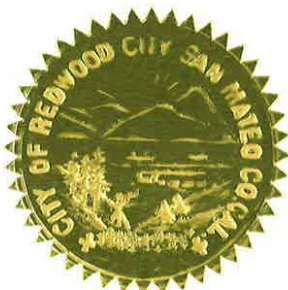
WHEREAS, hosted the first ever VOICE People's Panel which allowed attendees to learn about community organizing; learn about civic engagement at a local level; and meet the Mayor, organizers, executive directors of non-profits, and civic leaders to further promote the relationship between emerging and existing local leaders; and


WHEREAS, the youth participating in VOICE have already demonstrated their civic leadership by sharing their stories, skills, and knowledge with their communities and will continue to positively impact the present and future of Redwood City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to amplifying endeavors that provide opportunities for young people to ensure they embody their true potential as bringers of peace and positive change.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, JEFF GEE, MAYOR OF REDWOOD CITY, on behalf of the City Council and the people of the City of Redwood City do hereby proclaim August 12, 2024 as International Youth Day and express its sincere appreciation to the VOICE team for actively taking part in the endeavor to focus on your younger generations to make meaningful, positive change for years to come.

Date: August 12, 2024





Jeff Gee, Mayor


Lissette Espinoza-Garnica, Vice Mayor


Alicia C. Aguirre, Council Member


Kala Eakin, Council Member


Diane Howard, Council Member


Elmer Martinez-Sabollos, Council Member


Chris Sturken, Council Member