

Proclamation

Issued By The Mayor

Declaring Harvey Milk Day in San Leandro

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk was born on May 22, 1930. He was the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in a major city of the United States. He was assassinated in 1978 at San Francisco's City Hall by a political rival. Harvey Milk's life and political career embody the rise of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) civil rights movement in California, across the nation, and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, following his relocation from New York City to San Francisco in 1972, he opened a camera shop called Castro Camera; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk soon emerged as a community leader in the Castro neighborhood, representing the Local Merchants association before city government. Though he was initially unsuccessful in seeking public office in 1973 and 1975, with each race, he gained more prominence and eventually became known endearingly by his neighbors as the "Mayor of Castro Street"; and

WHEREAS, after San Francisco adopted a district election system in 1977, he was elected to the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco. It was the first time in U.S. history that an openly gay man was elected to a prominent political office; and

WHEREAS, during his term on the Board of Supervisors, he sponsored and successfully passed a gay rights ordinance. He was also instrumental in defeating Proposition 6 in 1978, which would have banned gays and lesbians from teaching in California public schools; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk's legacy as a civil rights leader is still felt today. He was named one of TIME Magazine's most influential people of the 20th century and many institutions and organizations are named in his honor. His life and social contributions have left an indelible mark on the history of our nation and hold a special meaning for the people of California.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor Paulene Russo Cutter, hereby recognize the pioneering contributions of Harvey Milk to the cause of gay civil rights and declare May 22, 2021, as Harvey Milk Day in San Leandro.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of San Leandro to be affixed this seventeenth day of May 2021.

