

City of San Rafael
Proclamation
Presented to
Gary Phillips

- WHEREAS, In 1972, Gary Phillips and his extraordinary wife Linda moved to San Rafael. They bought a beautiful house on a quiet street in the idyllic neighborhood of Terra Linda. Over the next couple of decades, Linda and Gary raised three smart and ambitious children - Kenneth, Janette, and Lisa. To support his children's educational needs and the greater community, Gary served eight important years on the Dixie School Board; and
- WHEREAS, in 1991 Gary was appointed to the San Rafael Planning Commission where he served for three years. During that time he and his fellow Commissioners were instrumental in reviewing and approving numerous development projects; and
- WHEREAS, Gary ran for City Council in 1994 and was re-elected three times, serving until 2007. He worked to revitalize the Downtown business district, as well as improve parks and community centers. In 2011, Al Boro announced his retirement after serving as San Rafael's Mayor for four decades and encouraged Gary to run; and
- WHEREAS, Gary was elected Mayor in 2011 and served two terms, leading efforts to improve San Rafael essential fire stations and build a new Public Safety Center, welcome the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit system through San Rafael, and reduce unsheltered homelessness by 37%; and
- WHEREAS, as Mayor, Gary spearheaded a City Council subcommittee program to tackle the City's most pressing issues. These subcommittees helped the City navigate fiscal challenges, become more sustainable, make strides to reduce homelessness, and support and revitalize the Downtown; and
- WHEREAS, under his leadership, San Rafael won numerous awards including the League of California Cities' first-ever Beacon Award for Sustainability in 2013, the League of California Cities' 2019 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence in internal administration, and the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce 2019 Joe Garbarino Large Green Business of the Year award; and
- WHEREAS, Gary's commitment to community was not confined to the City Council. He also served on the boards of Terra Linda Homeowners Association, Orca Swim Team, Terra Linda Little League, Lifehouse, Terra Linda High School Boosters, the Olympic Club, Marin/Sonoma Concours d'Elegance supporting Hospice of the Bay, San Rafael Chamber of Commerce, and more; and
- WHEREAS, Gary's impact on San Rafael is clear and profound. He has stayed committed to ensuring San Rafael is an amazing place to raise a family, as did he and Linda, and has always understood the needs of families and children are paramount. He has masterfully navigated the complexity of municipal budgets so that the government meets the needs of the community now and for years to come;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on behalf of the entire community of San Rafael, the City, and the City Council, I Kate Colin, do hereby express our deep appreciation and gratitude to Gary Phillips and wish him a future full of long drives on the golf course and in his beloved cars, many hours of delight with his children and grandchildren, plenty of good times with his many friends, and countless memories of his achievements as Mayor that will benefit the community for many decades to come.



Mayor Kate