



SAN RAFAEL CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Department: City Manager

Prepared by: Lindsay Lara, City Clerk

City Manager Approval: _____

TOPIC: PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD 2023

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO RECIPIENT OF THE RICHARD P. O'BRIEN AND MARY FERRARIO O'BRIEN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD FOR 2023

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution of Appreciation to recipient of the Richard P. O'Brien and Mary Ferrario O'Brien Public Service Award for 2023.

BACKGROUND: In March 2001, J. Michael Mahoney established an endowment in honor of former Planning Commissioner Richard O'Brien and his wife, Mary Ferrario O'Brien. The endowment funds an annual Public Service Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual in the San Rafael community who has made exceptional contributions to the City, making it a better place to live or work. In addition to public recognition, the endowment provides a cash award to the recipient.

In September 2001, the City Council adopted procedures for the Public Service Award program and process. The procedures include the appointment of a Selection Committee to review nominations from the public and recommend an award recipient to the City Council. The Selection Committee includes two City Council members, two Planning Commissioners, a member of the O'Brien family, a representative from the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce, and neighborhood community representatives (e.g., Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods).

The call for nominations was initiated in November 2022. Once the current year nominations have been submitted, they are reviewed along with the nominations submitted over the past three years (in this case 2020, 2021 and 2022). Last year's award recipient (Samantha Ramirez – 2022) was eliminated from the pool of eligible candidates.

This year, a total of 12 candidates were considered. Of this total, nominations were submitted for four nominees this year and eight were carried over from the past three years. On March 21,

FOR CITY CLERK ONLY

Council Meeting: _____

Disposition: _____

2023, the Selection Committee met to review and consider the nominations. The Committee selected Melissa Prandi as the twenty-third recipient of the award.

As summarized in the attached Resolution and nomination materials, Melissa Prandi was selected as the recipient of the Public Service Award due to her consistent level of selflessness demonstrated throughout her life's work. As a business owner in San Rafael, she models community engagement and encourages her team to participate in volunteer work. She has spent much of her time volunteering with the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Downtown Business Improvement District, Dominican University, the Women's Philanthropy Leadership Council, the Rotary Club of San Rafael and many more associations.

She led fund raising efforts for Meals of Marin, the Marin Center for Independent Living, the Marin Shakespeare Company, Sanzuma, Career Technical Education (CTE) Center, Slide Ranch, and three international charities including the Melissa Prandi Children's Foundation. During the first 30 days of COVID she organized the Rotary Club of San Rafael Board's fundraising of \$50,000 to the Marin Community Foundation, which gave back to smaller non-profits in Marin County.

Melissa takes every challenge she has faced in her life and turns it into an opportunity to help those around her. She is a survivor of domestic violence and has dedicated her time, energy, and money to the Center for Domestic Peace, and has been a keynote speaker at events where she shared some of her most personal experiences with domestic violence in an effort to raise awareness.

Melissa has made such an impact to the community that she received a total of six nominations for the Public Service Award. In the opinion of her nominators, Melissa is a force of nature who brings economic prosperity to San Rafael which helps our entire community, including our public schools. She is an incredible community member with an amazing can-do attitude, is extremely generous, constantly gives back financially, and dedicates her time and skills to make San Rafael and Marin a better place to live for everyone. Melissa's efforts and accomplishments have bettered our community, and communities across the world, in many ways, which has earned her the nomination for the City of San Rafael's Public Service Award for 2023.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: The call for nominations for Public Service Award was advertised in Snapshot (the City Manager's e-newsletter), the City website, NextDoor social media, and with neighborhood associations.

FISCAL IMPACT: As the Public Service Award program is privately funded, there is no financial impact to the City of San Rafael. However, the recipient of this award receives a check in the amount of \$2,500 from the Richard P. O'Brien and Mary Ferrario O'Brien Citizen of the Year Fund, which is administered by the Marin Community Foundation.

OPTIONS:

1. Adopt the Resolution of Appreciation presenting the 2023 Public Service Award to Melissa Prandi.
2. Return the recommendation to the Selection Committee for reconsideration.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the Resolution of Appreciation.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution of Appreciation
2. Nomination materials and letters of support for Melissa Prandi.



City of San Rafael

Richard P. O'Brien and Mary Ferrario O'Brien

Public Service Award for 2023

Presented to

Melissa Prandi

WHEREAS, Melissa Prandi was selected as the recipient of the Public Service Award due to her consistent level of selflessness demonstrated throughout her life's work. As a business owner in San Rafael, she models community engagement and encourages her team to participate in volunteer work; and

WHEREAS, Melissa has spent much of her time volunteering with the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Downtown Business Improvement District, Dominican University, the Women's Philanthropy Leadership Council, the Rotary Club of San Rafael, and many more associations; and

WHEREAS, Melissa led fund raising efforts for Meals of Marin, the Marin Center for Independent Living, the Marin Shakespeare Company, Sanzuma, the Career Technical Education (CTE) Center, Slide Ranch, and three international charities including the Melissa Prandi Children's Foundation. During the first 30 days of COVID, she organized the Rotary Club of San Rafael Board's fundraising of \$50,000 to the Marin Community Foundation, which gave back to smaller non-profits in Marin County; and

WHEREAS, Melissa takes every challenge she has faced in her life and turns it into an opportunity to help those around her. She is a survivor of domestic violence and has dedicated her time, energy, and money to the Center for Domestic Peace, and has been a keynote speaker at events where she shared some of her most personal experiences with domestic violence in an effort to raise awareness; and

WHEREAS, Melissa has made such an impact to the community that she received a total of six nominations for the Public Service Award. In the opinion of her nominators, Melissa is a force of nature who brings economic prosperity to San Rafael which helps our entire community, including our public schools. She is an incredible community member with an amazing can-do attitude, is extremely generous, constantly gives back financially, and dedicates her time and skills to make San Rafael and Marin a better place to live for everyone. Melissa's efforts and accomplishments have bettered our community, and communities across the world, in many ways, which has earned her the City of San Rafael's Public Service Award for 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the San Rafael City Council expresses its appreciation to Melissa Prandi on behalf of her community and hereby awards her the Richard O'Brien and the Mary Ferrario O'Brien Public Service Award for 2023 on Monday, April 3, 2023.

Mayor

New submission from Citizen of the Year

Forms Admin <notify@proudcity.com>

Thu 5/26/2022 7:31 AM

To: Lindsay Lara <lindsay.lara@cityofsanrafael.org>

Date

05/26/2022

Nominee for Citizen of the Year

Melissa Prandi

Nominee's Home Address

[Redacted]

United States

[Map It](#)

Does this nominee live within San Rafael City Limits?

- Yes

Nominee's Phone

[Redacted]

Nominee's Email

[Redacted]

Your Name

Helen Abe

Your Address

[Redacted]

United States

[Map It](#)

Your Phone

[Redacted]

Your Email

[Redacted]

What contributions has this individual made to the community that are beyond the scope of normal civic responsibilities?

Melissa is very active in her community and is involved in Rotary, many women's organizations, philanthropy in Uganda, and so much for human mankind every day all the time. She lives and breathes helping others.

What impact on the community did this individual's activities make? How has this person made a difference?

She helps support the needy, women, her employees, just makes everyone the best they can be.....she brings people together, is a leader and is fearless. Her most recent is starting a children foundation to educate the poorest children in Kampala in Uganda. She brings women together to give them hope and access to her leadership. She is selfless with advice. She gives sound advice effortlessly. Her company employs a staff of wonderful and loyal employees, providing good jobs with great benefits to uplift these folks.

Discuss the time and energy this person has devoted to community projects or efforts.

She probably spends all her waking hours helping the community and people abroad now. I know she stays up late and wakes up early thinking about how to do more....she gets others involved which helps to uplift these people too....everyone wants to contribute but do not know how...Melissa provides that platform.

Discuss the challenges met and overcome by this individual.

Has had employees that challenge her, her rotary club has had leadership challenges, has been a victim of domestic violence and survived to help other women, had a personal family member w alcohol addiction to deal with, jealous people because of her strong character and success.....she overcomes it all!!!! Just being around her inspires you to be better.

To what extent has this individual's efforts been previously recognized by the community?

She has been recognized over the years as a community leader by the San Rafael Chamber and other organizations.....but, she needs to be recognized as Citizen of the year because through thick and thin she continues to give, she never sits and wallows or has any concern for her own pain and suffering. Melissa gives and gives every day no matter what. She can be counted on! If you need inspiration or advice or help or anything, Melissa is the go to.

New submission from Citizen of the Year

Forms Admin <notify@proudcity.com>

Mon 6/20/2022 3:47 PM

To: Lindsay Lara <lindsay.lara@cityofsanrafael.org>

Date

06/20/2022

Nominee for Citizen of the Year

Melissa Prandi

Nominee's Home Address



United States

[Map It](#)

Does this nominee live within San Rafael City Limits?

- Yes

Nominee's Phone



Nominee's Email



Your Name

Lisa Neumaier

Your Address



United States

[Map It](#)

Your Phone



Your Email



What contributions has this individual made to the community that are beyond the scope of normal civic responsibilities?

Melissa owns her own buidling downtown and employees a team of 14. She encourages all the PRANDI team members to do volunnter work

Melissa attends and supports many non-profits in Marin County. She is a long time member of the SR Chamber and served 3 terms and 6 years on the SR Chamber board.

Melissa makes it a point to shop and dine locally especially in San Rafael.

She also served for the downtown business district board as well.

Melissa Mentors college students at Dominican College as well as serves as the President of the Women's Philanthropy Leadership Council.

Melissa is an very active in San Rafael - She loves giving back to San Rafael and beyond.

What impact on the community did this individual's activities make? How has this person made a difference?

Melissa

Has given back her

Time - Treasure and Talents

she mentors others

she is very active and involved in the community she works and lives in

Discuss the time and energy this person has devoted to community projects or efforts.

Melissa is an active Rotarian and does a lot of giving and projects through her Rotary Club

She volunteers when any project is going on with her club

Melissa is an active participant in Giving Marin through the Marin IJ

Melissa is working closely with Charlie Goodman for bring back the trades in San Rafael over by Terra Linda High School.

Melissa chaired a fundraiser for her Rotary Club where funds went to Meal of Marin

Center for Independent Living

Marin Shakespeare Company

Sanzuma

Slide Ranch

as well as 3 international charities

She was President of the Rotary Club of San Rafael when she lead the team/board to donate \$50,000 the first 30 days of COVID hitting to Marin Community Foundation. Glving back to smaller non-profit in Marin

Discuss the challenges met and overcome by this individual.

Melissa is a Survivor of Domestic Violence

She has given, donated and work closely with the Center for Domestic Peace.

She was also one of the keynote speakers a few years ago when she shared her personal story of domestic violence.

There was not a dry eye in the room. That was a difficult time. Melissa felt by sharing her story she could help others get through such a horrific thing.

To what extent has this individual's efforts been previously recognized by the community?

In the past

Melissa has been the Women of Industry recipient (2016)

PRANDI Co was recognized as the Small business of the year

Melissa was given the unsung hero award for Fair Housing of Marin which is now called Fair Housing of the North Bay

New submission from Public Service Award

Forms Admin <notify@proudcity.com>

Fri 12/16/2022 3:46 PM

To: Lindsay Lara <lindsay.lara@cityofsanrafael.org>

Date

12/16/2022

Nominee for Public Service Award

Melissa Prandi

Nominee's Home Address



United States

[Map It](#)

Does this nominee live within San Rafael City Limits?

- Yes

Nominee's Phone



Nominee's Email



Your Name

Matt Borries

Your Address



United States

[Map It](#)

Your Phone



Your Email



What contributions has this individual made to the community that are beyond the scope of normal civic responsibilities?

Melissa has been a member of the Mission San Rafael rotary club for almost 10 years. She just served as president and has also served at the district level. She has been involved with the downtown San Rafael Business Improvement District as well as on the advisory board for Bank of Marin. When she's not traveling, you can find her supporting many

local non profits from Bloom, to Sparkle as well as Center for Domestic Peace and many more. Melissa also proudly supports Giving Marin which exclusively promotes and supports local Marin County charities through IJ publication and grant giving. Her latest endeavor is the Melissa Prandi Children's Foundation which improves the lives of Children and Youth through quality Education, Health and Economic Independence in impoverished communities around the world, currently in Uganda. While this isn't directly a San Rafael related charity she is promoting this foundation locally and many residents of San Rafael have supported and attended a service trip to Uganda.

What impact on the community did this individual's activities make? How has this person made a difference?

Melissa's life is all about giving back. She leads by example and many have followed. Melissa is extremely active in the Marin Community where she lives and works right here in San Rafael and she has been for many years now.

She has served on many non-profit board over the many years

She is currently active and is the President of the Women's Leadership Philanthropy Council where she is actively serving in a 3-year term - Leading the way through all ages and diversity of women leadership and mentorship.

She is an active Mission San Rafael Rotarian where she served as President of the club 2019 - 2020

Melissa attends many non-profit charity events - she is a long time and active member of 3 chamber of commerces where she served as President for Corte Madera and served 6 years as a member of the San Rafael Chamber.

Melissa has volunteers for so many activities in Marin too many probably to list them all.

Completed the cert training and became a block captain in her home neighborhood of Glenwood San Rafael Sponsored and spoke at the annual teen conference twice and continues to have her company sponsor the conference

Active member of Giving Marin

Involved and assisting with raising funds for the new Career Technical Education (CTE) Center working closely with Charlie Goodman to bring in donors and work to raise the 1.8 million to fully fund this project.

Melissa has a team of 15 in her SR Based company where she started as a receptionist back in March of 1982

Melissa has been one of the keynote speakers at the annual Center for Domestic Peace luncheon where she shared her personal story of over coming her time in a domestic violence relationship. Melissa is a true survivor.

Melissa started her own non-profit to help with educating children and young adults in Uganda Africa

Melissa is out nightly in our community sharing her

Time

Treasure

and Talent

Discuss the time and energy this person has devoted to community projects or efforts.

Melissa has never left Marin County and spent most of her time living and working in San Rafael. Her 40 years in the property management business has helped thousands of residents call San Rafael home while looking after the owner's most valuable asset, their rental property in San Rafael. At 60 years young she as much more giving to do. She has also been appointed by former Mayor of San Rafael Gary Phillips to serve 2 years on the downtown business association.

She lead the charge for Holiday Caroling for 3+ years (prior to COVID) at Aldersly and Rotary Manor - bringing smiles to many seniors faces.

Discuss the challenges met and overcome by this individual.

Melissa came from a difficult upbringing. After losing her mother to suicide when Melissa was 9, she had to adapt to life without a mother. She also found out in high school that her father was going to run for Marin county, Sherriff. She has also overcome a difficult relationship with domestic violence and restraining orders as well as raising a son and running a business all while still giving back to the community.

To what extent has this individual's efforts been previously recognized by the community?

Melissa' company, PRANDI Property Management has been recognized for business of the year and Women of Industry both by the San Rafael Chamber.

Lindsay Lara

From: Forms Admin <notify@proudcity.com>
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2019 12:07 PM
To: Lindsay Lara
Subject: New submission from Citizen of the Year

Date

12/20/2019

Nominee for Citizen of the Year

Melissa Prandi

Nominee's Home Address

[REDACTED]

United States

[Map It](#)

Does this nominee live within San Rafael City Limits?

- Yes

Nominee's Phone

[REDACTED]

Nominee's Email

[REDACTED]

Your Name

Matt Borries

Your Address

[REDACTED]

United States

[Map It](#)

Your Phone

[REDACTED]

Your Email

[REDACTED]

What contributions has this individual made to the community that are beyond the scope of normal civic responsibilities?

Member of San Rafael Chamber for 20 years
Served 6 years on the SR Chamber board
Received the Mary Lou Jacobsen Award during her service
Won Business of the year at Spirit of Marin Awards
Women of Industry award 2016 - honor of receiving this award which goes out to ONE lady one business owner or person making a difference in our community.
One of the Keynote Speakers for the
Center for Domestic Peace - Overcoming Domestic Violence herself - Going through the challenges of that but with the support of C4DP then stepping on that stage in 2015 and talking, sharing her story.
Continue to be a sponsor's and support for the Center for Domestic Peace
Current President of Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael
Served 7 years on the Fair Housing of Marin, She received their "Unsung Hero" award.
Served on committees for the Marin Association of Realtors for over 20 years. She received the Affiliate of the year Award.

She served on the Bank of Marin Business Advisory Board for over 10 years
She served on the board for the Hospice of Marin and now Hospice By The Bay for 5 years
Served on the board for the Concourse D Elegance for 2 years - All funds raised went to Hospice By the Bay.
Chaired the Open Hearts Open Homes for 3 years raising money and awareness for Hospice by the Bay.
Served 2 years - (asked by Mayor Phillips) to serve for the Downtown San Rafael Business District.
She has been in the property management business for over 38 years - She is the president and CEO for PRANDI Property Management, Inc. a San Rafael Based company employing 15 people.
She is a member of the following:
WLPC - Women Leadership Philanthropy Council - Taking over as President July 2020
Marin Women at work
Charter member of 100+ Marin people who care - haven't missed any of the 7 events.
Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael
Marin Forum - over 25 years

What impact on the community did this individual's activities make? How has this person made a difference?

Melissa currently supports/sponsors the following organizations:

Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP)
Meals of Marin
100 + People of Marin who care
Shakespeare Restorative Justice programs
Huckleberry Youth Programs
Side by Side
Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael
ExtraFood.org
Canal Alliance
Santa Cop
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California
Marin Center for Independent Living
Marin Adopt a Family
Project Avery
Sponsors a Terra Linda Little League team for over 15 years
Fair Housing Poster Contest Sponsor in April each year
Marin Teen Conference
YWCA
Marin Women's Hall of Fame
Ceres Community Project
Big Brothers Big Sisters
San Rafael Pacifics

Discuss the time and energy this person has devoted to community projects or efforts.

Melissa is a go-getter. Never one to slow down. She sleeps on average 4 hours a night. She truly puts service above self which is why the Mission San Rafael Rotary club is such a good fit for her. She just spent the last 4 months planning a fundraiser for local San Rafael charities. She sacrificed her time, energy and her staff at PRANDI Property Management to make sure the fundraiser was the best it could be. Her mentor was the late great Catherine Munson who is an icon to many of us.

Discuss the challenges met and overcome by this individual.

Melissa was one of 4 growing up in Marin. Her mother took her own life when Melissa was under 10 years old. Her father ran for Sherrif of Marin while Melissa was in high school which has its own challenges as a young teen. Melissa worked 3 jobs in High School while maintaining straight A's and other extracurricular activities. Melissa never went to College and operates one of the most successful property management companies in the bay area. She also raised her one son who is now the Vice President of PRANDI Property Management and also a Broker.

To what extent has this individual's efforts been previously recognized by the community?

Corte Madera Chamber Business Citizen of the year - 1994 Corte Madera
San Rafael Small Business Citizen of the year 2015
Fair Housing of Marin - Unsung Hero Award
San Rafael Chamber Women of Industry 2016
Marin Association of Realtors Affiliate of the year award 2006
Recognized in her field - Nationally - received the Presidential Award twice from the National Association of Residential Property Managers.

Lindsay Lara

From: Forms Admin <notify@proudcity.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 9:38 AM
To: Lindsay Lara
Subject: New submission from Citizen of the Year

Date

01/02/2020

Nominee for Citizen of the Year

Melissa Prandi

Nominee's Home Address

[REDACTED]
United States

[Map It](#)

Does this nominee live within San Rafael City Limits?

- Yes

Nominee's Phone

[REDACTED]

Nominee's Email

[REDACTED]

Your Name

Maika Llorens Gulati

Your Address

[REDACTED]

United States

[Map It](#)

Your Phone

[REDACTED]

Your Email

[REDACTED]

What contributions has this individual made to the community that are beyond the scope of normal civic responsibilities?

Melissa is a Marin native who has lived in San Rafael for over 40 years (since Sophomore year in high school!). In 1999, Melissa moved her company to San Rafael downtown with 7 employees at the time. She invested in San Rafael by purchasing her office building 30 years ago. It was a stretch for her, but Melissa has always believe in San Rafael and our community. Now she employs 15 people. Melissa works tirelessly with her team of committed employees to ensure that their client's residential investment properties run safely and smoothly while in their care. Melissa recently got CERT (Community Emergency Respond Training) trained going through the disasters preparedness program and she is a Team Captain in the Glenwood Neighborhood .

Melissa is a force of nature! Not only she brings economic prosperity to San Rafael which helps our entire community, including our public schools. Melissa is an incredible community member, with an amazing can-do attitude, extremely generous, constantly giving back financially, but also dedicating a lot of her time and skills to make San Rafael and Marin a much better place to live for everyone.

With her honesty, integrity, knowledge, and enthusiasm, Melissa is a gift for San Rafael!

What impact on the community did this individual's activities make? How has this person made a difference?

Just to name a few of the non-profits Melissa and PRANDI Property Management supports:

Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP)
Meals of Marin
100 + People of Marin who care
Shakespeare Restorative Justice programs
Huckleberry Youth Programs
Side by Side
Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael
ExtraFood.org
Canal Alliance
Santa Cop
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California
Marin Center for Independent Living
Marin Adopt a Family
Project Avery
Sponsors a Terra Linda Little League team for over 15 years
Fair Housing Poster Contest Sponsor in April each year
Marin Teen Conference
YWCA
Marin Women's Hall of Fame
Slide Ranch
Ceres Community Project
Big Brothers Big Sisters

Discuss the time and energy this person has devoted to community projects or efforts.

Actively involved and absolutely committed to the community, Melissa serves on several non-profit boards and agencies:

- Melissa has been a member of the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce for 20 years, serving as a Board member for 6 years.
- Melissa currently serves as President of the Mission Rotary in San Rafael. In 2019, She led work projects at Slide Ranch that were life changers after the Muir fire evacuation and PSPS by PG&E; She planned and put together Christmas Caroling at San Rafael Senior Community (5-years now);
Chaired the Passport to Fun and Adventure FUN RAISER for the first time ever with over 350 guests raising \$40,000 to be given out to scholarships and 3 local charities and 3 global charities. Melissa is a past District Rotary Membership Chair serving 43 Rotary Clubs and presenting at District learning and development.

She has also served on committees for:

- the Fair Housing of Marin for 7 years, receiving their "Unsung Hero" award.
 - the Marin Association of Realtors for 30 years, receiving the Affiliate of the year Award in 2009 for her dedication to equal housing opportunity.
 - the Bank of Marin Business Advisory Board for over 10 years.
 - the Hospice of Marin and now Hospice By The Bay for 5 years, as a Board Chair for the Hospice Board (fundraising side)
 - the Concourse D Elegance for 2 years - All funds raised went to Hospice By the Bay. It was the first year they had over 10,000 people in attendance. Melissa chaired the fundraising drive for 2 years.
 - The BID (Downtown Improvement District) for 2 years, by request from Mayor Phillips.
- Chaired the Open Hearts Open Homes for 3 years raising money and awareness for Hospice by the Bay.

Melissa is also a member of:

- WLPC: Women Leadership Philanthropy Council, taking over as President in July 2020
- Marin Women at work
- Charter member of 100+ Marin people who care - she hasn't missed an event since they started 7 years ago
- Marin Forum for over 25 years

Discuss the challenges met and overcome by this individual.

Running a women owned business since 1987, Melissa had to balance a brand new 3 day old baby when she went into escrow to purchase the company she worked for. When the company was purchased, it had 3 employees managing 100 properties. Today, with her work ethic and commitment to our community and her clients, she has a team of 15 employees managing over 700 properties and handling leasing for an additional 300 + properties, ONLY in Marin County.

Melissa was a victim of domestic violence for 10 years, having to move constantly. With the support of Center for Domestic Peace, she was able to overcome this incredible challenge and survive. In 2015, Melissa was one of the keynote speakers for

the Center for Domestic Peace sharing her courageous story. This has definitely being one of her more challenging successes. Melissa continues to be a sponsor and supports this organization.

Purchasing her company building was definitely a stretch but she did it anyway, dedicating her life to improve our San Rafael community.

Melissa has no college education but she is always taking classes, learning skills of being an employer.

Dedicated to her community

To what extent has this individual's efforts been previously recognized by the community?

Melissa has received several awards:

- the Mary Lou Jacobsen Award
- the San Rafael Small Business of the year in 2015
- the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce Women of Industry award in 2016 - honor which goes out to one lady, business owner or person making a difference in our community
- the "Unsung Hero" award in 2009 for her dedication to equal housing opportunity and her work on the Fair Housing of Marin
- the Affiliate of the year Award in 2006 for her work with the Marin Association of Realtors for over 20 years.
- Recognized in her field Nationally Melissa received the Presidential Award twice given to only one person each year
- Corte Madera Chamber Business Citizen of the year - 1994

I can't think of any more deserving person to receive this year's San Rafael award than our very own Melissa Prandi!

Lindsay Lara

From: Forms Admin <notify@proudcity.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 9:23 AM
To: Lindsay Lara
Subject: New submission from Citizen of the Year

Date

12/19/2019

Nominee for Citizen of the Year

Melissa Prandi

Nominee's Home Address

[REDACTED]
United States
[Map It](#)

Does this nominee live within San Rafael City Limits?

- Yes

Nominee's Phone

[REDACTED]

Nominee's Email

[REDACTED]

Your Name

David Haydon

Your Address

[REDACTED]
United States
[Map It](#)

Your Phone

[REDACTED]

Your Email

[REDACTED]

What contributions has this individual made to the community that are beyond the scope of normal civic responsibilities?

Giving back to the following charities - sponsorships/donations and attendance

Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP)
Meals of Marin
100 + People of Marin who care
Shakespeare Restorative Justice programs
Huckleberry Youth Programs
Side by Side
Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael
ExtraFood.org
Canal Alliance
Santa Cop
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California

Marin Center for Independent Living
Marin Adopt a Family
Project Avery
Sponsors a Terra Linda Little League team for over 15 years
Fair Housing Poster Contest Sponsor in April each year
Marin Teen Conference
YWCA
Marin Women's Hall of Fame
Ceres Community Project
Big Brothers Big Sister

What impact on the community did this individual's activities make? How has this person made a difference?

Melissa is tirelessly making a difference with her donations and fundraising through her involvement with these nonprofits.
WLPC - Women Leadership Philanthropy Council - Taking over as President July 2020
Marin Women at work
Charter member of 100+ Marin people who care - haven't missed an event of (7)
Marin Association of Realtors - Affiliate member over 30 years
Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael
Marin Forum - over 25 years

Discuss the time and energy this person has devoted to community projects or efforts.

Giving back
Time ~ Treasure ~ Talent

One of the Keynote Speakers for the
Center for Domestic Peace - Overcoming Domestic Violence Personally - Going through the challenges of that but with the support of C4DP then stepping on that stage in 2015 and taking, sharing the story. Not an easy thing to do - one of my more challenging successes
Continue to be a sponsor's and support for the Center for Domestic Peace

Served 7 years on the Fair Housing of Marin
Received their "Unsung Hero" award

Served on committees for the Marin Association of Realtors for over 20 years
Received the Affiliate of the year Award

Served on the Bank of Marin Business Advisory Board for over 10 years

Served on the board for the Hospice of Marin and now Hospice By The Bay for 5 years
Board chair for the Hospice Board (fundraising side)

Served on the board for the Concourse D Elegance for 2 years - All funds raised went to Hospice By the Bay. First year over 10,000 in attendance. Chaired the drive for 2 years raising more money for Hospice

Chaired the Open Hearts Open Homes for 3 years raising money and awareness for Hospice by the Bay

Recently Chaired the event November 23rd 2019 where over 350 people attended raising money for 6 charities
3 local charities service San Rafael and Marin County
3 global charities
Served 2 years - asked by Mayor Phillips to serve for the Downtown Business District

Discuss the challenges met and overcome by this individual.

Melissa has had personal challenges with starting a business.
Moved her company into downtown San Rafael 1999 - 20 years ago
Purchase my office building - That was a huge stretch but I did it
at the time employed 7 and now today employ 15 people.
One of the Keynote Speakers for the
Center for Domestic Peace - Overcoming Domestic Violence Personally - Going through the challenges of that but with the support of C4DP then stepping on that stage in 2015 and taking, sharing the story. Not an easy thing to do - one of my more challenging successes
Continue to be a sponsor's and support for the Center for Domestic Peace

To what extent has this individual's efforts been previously recognized by the community?

Dedicated to her community

Awards
Corte Madera Chamber Business Citizen of the year - 1994 Corte Madera

San Rafael Small Business Citizen of the year 2015
Fair Housing of Marin - Unsung Hero Award
San Rafael Chamber Women of Industry 2016
Marin Association of Realtors Affiliate of the year award 2006
Recognized in her field - Nationally - received the Presidential Award twice given to only one person each year

Rotary

Currently President of the Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael
Led work projects at Slide Ranch
Planned and put together Christmas Caroling at San Rafael Senior Community (5-years now)
Chaired the Passport to Fun and Adventure FUN RAISER - FIRST TIME EVENT over 350 people raising \$40,000 to be given out to scholarships and 3 local charities 3 global charities
Past District Rotary Membership Chair serving 43 Rotary Clubs and presenting at District learning and