

City of Petaluma

Proclamation

VASANTI JAYASWAL DAY: APRIL 12, 2023

WHEREAS, the City of Petaluma was officially incorporated as a charter city on April 12, 1858, and will mark its 165th birthday this year, thereby continuing its status as one of California's oldest – and greatest – cities; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 165-year history, Petaluma remains a city of great historical significance, having played a prominent role in California's early days as a center of agriculture and commerce, with industries such as dairying, poultry farming, and milling and continuing its relevance even today through offerings of fine dining, cherished historical landmarks, and a vibrant and diverse community, with a strong commitment to social justice, environmental sustainability, and economic opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, there is no greater supporter of Petaluma than resident Vasanti Jayaswal who, after a childhood in India and many years living in different locations around the world, settled in Petaluma in 2009 – drawn to its affinity with her personal and cultural values – and thinks of it as her true home since leaving India stating, “I feel like I was given a place on my mother’s lap”; and

WHEREAS, Vasanti has vibrantly added to the Petaluma community through volunteer work promoting cultural programs by the Indian community, specifically youth programs of song and dance, educational classes, music and lectures, and even organizing an international children’s walking group as part of Petaluma’s annual Butter and Egg Day; and

WHEREAS, every year since 2011, Vasanti has delivered a special cake and note of gratitude to City Hall every April 12th to celebrate the City’s “birthday,” in appreciation for the joy she has found in her adopted hometown and it is received with gratitude and humility by the City staff and Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Kevin McDonnell, Mayor of Petaluma, along with members of the Petaluma City Council, do hereby declare April 12, 2023, as Vasanti Jayaswal Day and encourage all residents to take pride in their community, to continue to work together to create a more just, sustainable, and prosperous city, and to celebrate Petaluma's 165th birthday with joy and enthusiasm.

Kevin McDonnell, Mayor

Kendall Sawyer, City Clerk