

# *City of San Pablo*

## *Recognizing*

*March 2020*

*As*

## *American Red Cross Month*

***WHEREAS;** every year, the American Red Cross, the largest humanitarian organization in the world, responds to an average of more than 60,000 disasters across the country, from small home fires to massive disasters;*

***WHEREAS,** March is American Red Cross Month, a time when we recognize the humanitarian organization that eases people's suffering during life's emergencies in San Pablo, across the United States and around the world.*

***WHEREAS,** the American Red Cross has a long history of helping our neighbors in their time of greatest need by delivering shelter, care and hope during disasters; making our community safer through its lifesaving Home Fire Campaign; providing lifesaving blood; teaching skills that save lives; and supporting military veterans and their families;*

***WHEREAS,** last year in Contra Costa County, American Red Cross volunteers helped 168 people affected by 110 home fires providing emotional support, addressing immediate needs and helping families recover with emergency financial assistance or community resources; collected 15,941 units of lifesaving blood; taught skills that save lives to 10,747 community members; provided international humanitarian aid; and supported 835 military members and their families;*

***WHEREAS,** when large disasters like the Kincaid fire, the Ridgecrest earthquake, Hurricane Dorian and the coastal hurricanes and Midwest tornadoes and floods devastated families in other parts of the country last year, volunteers from San Pablo were among the nearly 9,000 Red Crossers who left their homes to work alongside partners to providing refuge, food, relief items and emotional support;*

***WHEREAS;** the Red Cross continues to work with its partners to prevent fire tragedies through its national Home Fire Campaign, which installed its two millionth free smoke alarms last year and has saved almost 700 lives across the country since launching five years ago; and in Contra Costa County, the American Red Cross and local partners installed nearly 1,500 free smoke alarms and made 471 households safer from the threat of home fires;*

***WHEREAS;** during last year's Red Flag Warnings, complicated by the Public Safety Power Shutoffs, American Red Cross worked tirelessly beside its government and community partners to coordinate preparedness efforts and develop response plans for the high fire danger by putting volunteers on standby to open evacuation centers and shelters and staff the Emergency Operations Center; and*

***WHEREAS;** everyday people in our community depend on the American Red Cross, whose lifesaving mission is powered by the devotion of volunteers, generosity of donors and partnership of community organizations. We dedicate the month of March to all those who support its vital work to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, Arturo M. Cruz, Mayor of the City of San Pablo, and on behalf of the City Council, hereby proclaim the month of **March 2020 as American Red Cross Month** and encourage all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.***

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of San Pablo to be affixed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2020.*

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*Arturo M. Cruz, Mayor*