



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2019

DEPARTMENT: LIBRARY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

FROM: KRISTAN LUNDQUIST, DIRECTOR

TITLE: INSTALLATION OF PEACE POLE

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a resolution accepting the donation of a Peace Pole and authorizing the installation of said Peace Pole in front of City Hall.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council approve a resolution accepting the donation of a Peace Pole from the Salinas Union High School Japanese Program and authorize the installation of said Peace Pole in front of City Hall.

BACKGROUND:

The Salinas Union High School District has a thriving Japanese language program where students of the program have opportunities to engage with the Japanese language and culture both in and outside of the classroom through extracurricular clubs. Through trips to Japan, students have been able to learn about Japanese culture and history first-hand.

In March of 2018, two Japanese teachers took 24 students to Okinawa, Japan to explore the themes of war and peace. They visited important historical landmarks and learned about the experience of World War II from the Okinawan perspective. They became the first group of students from the United States to visit the Peace Memorial Park to conduct a Peace Pledge Ceremony where they pledged to always work to achieve peace in their community and the world.

In an effort to follow through with the student's commitment to serve as peace ambassadors, they would like to present a Peace Pole as a gift to the City of Salinas as an emblem and reminder that we can all work toward the goal of peace. The Peace Pole Project is a collaborative effort between the 2018 Japan Trip students of Everett Alvarez High School (EAHS) and Salinas High School (SHS) and the Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS) students.

In March of 2019, Erica Hashiba and Minako Kamimura, Japanese teachers at EAHS and SHS gave a presentation on the Peace Pole Project to the Public Art Commission. The Commission unanimously supported the project.

The Peace Pole will be installed in front of City Hall in the most appropriate location.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The installation of the Peace Pole supports City Council Strategic Plan Goals: Quality of Life and Safe Livable Community

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

The Library & Community Services Department is working with Public Works on the installation of the Peace Pole.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

There is no cost for the Peace Pole as it is a donation from the Salinas Union High School District Japanese Program. There will be some minimal costs associated with the installation of the Peace Pole, but these costs will be covered by the existing LCS budget. No additional funds will be requested. The Salinas Union High School District Japanese Program will be responsible for any future maintenance costs.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution