

**COMMENDATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF SARATOGA HONORING THE
40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTER CITY AFFILIATION
BETWEEN MUKO-SHI, JAPAN AND SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA**

WHEREAS, in 1969, Mr. Kiyoshi Yasui, an eminent landscape architect from Muko-shi, Japan, visited Saratoga to develop a master plan for Hakone Gardens; and

WHEREAS, seeing a similarity in the demographics of Saratoga and Muko-shi, a fruitful partnership began between the two cities; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, the cities of Saratoga, California and Muko-shi, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan formalized a partnership by starting a Sister City affiliation; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Saratoga Mayor Ann Marie Burger and Sister City President Marty Clevenger, along with 70 Saratoga Sister City Committee Members, visited Muko-shi to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the cities' affiliation, as well as the 1,200th anniversary of Kyoto's Imperial Capital; and

WHEREAS, during the 40-year history of the Saratoga-Muko affiliation, delegations from both cities visited each other multiple times to exchange and experience culture, arts, education, and history, as well as establish enduring friendships; and

WHEREAS, during a visit to Muko-shi, Saratoga Sister City members learned about Taiko drumming and established a Taiko drum group in Saratoga, which performs throughout the South Bay at events such as the Saratoga Blossom Festival, Mosaic America at the McAfee Performance Center, and Yerba Buena Gardens Festival in San Francisco, among others; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Saratoga does hereby recognize the long and vibrant history between Saratoga and Muko-shi on the 40th anniversary of the Saratoga-Muko Sister City partnership and expresses its appreciation for the committed individuals who have worked diligently to maintain a thriving relationship between the two cities.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF SARATOGA on this
2nd day of October 2024.



Yan Zhao, Mayor
City of Saratoga