RESOLUTION NO. 22-019

POSTHUMOUS RECOGNITION OF GERRY LOW SABADO

FINDINGS

1. WHEREAS, Gerry Low Sabado was a Fifth-Generation descendant of Point Almejas – Point Alones Chinese Village settlers; great grand-daughter of Quock Mui, first documented Chinese American woman born in the Monterey area who grew up at the Point Almejas - Point Alones Chinese Village in Pacific Grove; great grand-daughter of Quock Tuck Lee, Chinese American citizen born at Point Almejas – Point Alones, advocate and activist for the Chinese Village community, and others; and

2. WHEREAS, Gerry Low was born in Monterey to Edwin and Mai (Jone) Low, attended local schools with her three sisters; met Randy Sabado at CSU Hayward, obtained a BS in Education, married Randy and became parents of Amber and Brandon, sixth generation Pacific Grove Chinese Village descendants; and

3. WHEREAS, Gerry Low Sabado’s caring approach and passion for education and discovery, as a preschool teacher and director in Fremont for over two decades, had a profound impact on children’s and families’ lives, then and now; and

4. WHEREAS, Gerry Low Sabado’s subsequent discovery, as an adult, of her family’s history of accomplishments and persecutions created her unquenchable interest in the history of Chinese Americans in Pacific Grove and California, from 1853 to the present day, and led to her enthusiasm for sharing that history in every way possible with everyone she met; and

5. WHEREAS, Gerry Low Sabado’s drive to highlight the history of the Chinese in the Monterey Bay area, and the impact they had on the development of fisheries and marine science in California, sprang from her family’s participation in the first commercial squid fishery, specimen collecting for Stanford University, longtime ownership of Regal Seafood in Monterey and exclusive supplier for Starkist Fisheries and local restaurants and markets in the Monterey area; and

6. WHEREAS, Gerry Low Sabado’s identification of an ancestor’s photo at the Point Lobos Whaler’s Cabin brought home to her the need to bring the region’s Chinese history to light; her involvement in the 2003 CSUMB documentary “By Light of Lanterns” helped her find her voice as a Pacific Grove Chinese American Village descendant; her presence at an archaeological excavation of her ancestors’ homes at the Village site at Hopkins Marine Station in 2007 caused her to realize the need for education about the Pacific Grove Chinese Village; and

7. WHEREAS, Gerry Low Sabado’s tireless years of efforts to gain recognition for the Point Almejas – Point Alones Village, and accurately portray the strength and humanity
of local Chinese Americans in the face of decades of prejudice, mistreatment and
discrimination, resulted in the first annual “Walk of Remembrance” along the shoreline
to the Village site to honor the ancestors and their descendants, in 2009; to a
commemorative plaque installed in 2014 outside the Village site along the Recreation
Trail; to improvements to the Recreation Trail mural, Pacific Grove Museum of Natural
History exhibits, to being a narrator in the Monterey Bay Aquarium program entitled
“Turning the Tide : The Story of Monterey Bay” which tells the story of peoples who
immigrated to Monterey to make a living from the Bay, to inclusion of the Village history
in the 2021 Recreation Trail audio walking tour; and

8. WHEREAS, Gerry Low Sabado’s passion, perseverance and dedication to telling the true
story of local Chinese Americans in our history was recognized by numerous citations
and awards, including the Monterey Bay Chinese Association, the Monterey Bay Chapter
of the Sons of the American Revolution, the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern
California, Monterey County Chapter Ralph B. Atkinson Award for Civil Liberties, City
of Pacific Grove Proclamations, recognition by the Museum of Chinese in America of
New York, and many, many others; and

9. WHEREAS, Gerry Low Sabado was unwavering in her sense of justice, honor and hope
towards her ancestors, descendants and the possibility of change; made numerous
educational presentations to audiences of all ages and types; spoke at an anti-Asian-
American Hate Rally in 2021 as one of her last actions; tried to work with Feast of
Lanterns event organizers for many years to remove culturally objectionable aspects; and
in 2022 the event was ended; and

10. WHEREAS, Gerry Low Sabado’s life and actions created long lasting awareness and
understanding of the contributions and heritage of Chinese Americans in our community;
her work as a community preservationist and enthusiastic teacher was done with heartfelt
connections and extraordinary kindness; and her life of “good trouble” and “Change with
Kindness” is an inspiration to us all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF PACIFIC GROVE:

1. The Council determines that each of the Findings set forth above is true and correct,
and by this reference incorporates those Findings as an integral part of this
Resolution.

2. The Council authorizes this posthumous recognition of Gerry Low Sabado with
appreciation for her tireless work to advance the City of Pacific Grove’s
understanding of the cultural history, struggles, enterprise, and resilience of the early
Chinese settlers and citizens at Point Almejas – Point Alones, connecting our
knowledge of the ancestors and descendants with their lasting impact on Pacific
Grove, California, and our nation.
3. The Council recognizes the May 14, 2022 Annual Walk of Remembrance in memory of Gerry Low Sabado’s life of care, curiosity, courage, connection and community, leading to greater understanding of Pacific Grove’s diverse heritage, appreciation of the lasting contributions of the Point Alones Chinese settlers and descendants, and bringing about change with kindness for the future.

4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately following passage and adoption thereof.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE**
this 20th day of April, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Peake, Mayor Pro Tem McAdams, Councilmembers Coletti, Poduri, Smith, and Tomlinson.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Amelio.

**APPROVED:**

BILL PEAKE, Mayor

4/25/2022

**ATTEST:**

SANDRA KANDELL, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

DAVID C. LAREDO, City Attorney