SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MARCH 31, 2024
AS CESAR CHAVEZ DAY

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez Day is a U.S. federal commemorative holiday, proclaimed by President Barack Obama in 2014, it is a State holiday in California and is observed in ten other states. The holiday celebrates the birth and legacy of the civil rights and labor movement activist Cesar Chavez on March 31 every year, and is observed to promote service to the community in honor of his life and work; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life of work and service, Cesar Chavez empowered thousands to stand together for their rights and led our nation toward a more equitable and just society. His visionary leadership inspired a powerful movement that burns brightly to this day, rallying people from all walks of life to champion the dignity of work.

WHEREAS, Born near Yuma, Arizona in 1927, Chavez and his family moved to California after losing their home during the Great Depression. Toiling in the fields from a young age, Chavez faced dismal working conditions, racism, abuse and exploitation. Moved to confront these injustices, he began working as an organizer in the farmworker community, advocating for improvements in their working and living conditions.

WHEREAS, The Bracero Program was established in 1942 as a result of a federal executive order known as the Mexican Farm Labor Program. By this program, millions of Mexican males were able to secure temporary employment in the US. Chavez meticulously recorded the injustices of the Bracero Program in his attempts to unite Latino Americans. Despite not being a labor union, Chavez's attempts to organize farmworkers were greatly aided by the CSO (Community Service Organization).

WHEREAS, Founding the United Farm Workers (UFW) together with Dolores Huerta, Chavez challenged Americans to recognize that the produce on their dinner tables was picked by human hands - often the hands of people who were denied the most basic human rights. Bringing their cause to the national stage, Chavez led a historic march of farmworkers from Delano to Sacramento in 1966 and helped launch a successful boycott of grapes that galvanized support across the country and beyond.

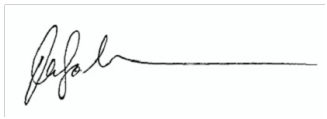
WHEREAS, Chavez's tireless efforts were instrumental in the passage of the 1975 California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which made our state the first in U.S. history to give farmworkers the right to join a union and engage in collective bargaining.

WHEREAS, On the anniversary of his birth, we celebrate Cesar Chavez's hard-won strides for social justice, and reflect on the work that lies ahead to build a brighter future for all our communities. Let us carry on his timeless legacy by lifting up our neighbors, speaking out against injustice, and working together to extend the dream of prosperity, equity and progress to all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of the San Mateo Union High

School District understands its responsibility to recognize March 31, 2024 as Cesar Chavez Day and encourages our students and community to learn more about Chavez's life and legacy.

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Passed and adopted on this 14th day of March, 2024.



Ligia Andrade Zuniga

Superintendent

President, Board of Trustees