



Proclamation Honoring Greening the Streets of Our Community

WHEREAS, as an important part of the ongoing Richmond Renaissance that has been transforming the City for the last few years, residents of the North and East neighborhood have spearheaded a project to provide street trees to its community through the City's Adopt-a-Tree program; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, October 22, 2011, residents of the City of Richmond celebrated Arbor Day in the North and East neighborhood by planting 53 new street trees; and

WHEREAS, this Arbor Day event was the result of a grassroots project of the all-volunteer Tree Team who worked with the City Parks and Landscaping Superintendent Chris Chamberlain and the City of Richmond's Adopt-a-Tree program; and

WHEREAS, Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Tom Butt, City Councilmember Jovanka Beckles, and City Manager Bill Lindsay participated in the event, and;

WHEREAS, several prominent local speakers, including Mayor McLaughlin, Police Chief Chris Magnus and others addressed the importance of street trees to the health, happiness, safety and prosperity of the community, as well as the relationship between planting trees and reversing global warming; and

WHEREAS, other benefits of street trees include: reducing air pollution by absorbing harmful chemicals, providing an urban habitat for wildlife, softening neighborhood noise, reducing speeding traffic, improving public safety and increasing property values by 15% or more; and

WHEREAS, the effect of street trees on a community has perhaps been underestimated in the past, but is now recognized as more than simply an aesthetic enhancement; rather it can help decrease crime and improve safety for all residents, as well as being an investment in the health and well-being of our community now and for generations to come.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that I, Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, on behalf of the Richmond City Council, do hereby express gratitude to the local community volunteers for their efforts to invest in the health and well-being of our community now and for generations to come.

Gayle McLaughlin, Mayor
City of Richmond
October 22, 2011