

## **Compassionate San Juan Bautista**

WHEREAS, The Charter for Compassion, initiated by TED Prize winner Karen Armstrong, was unveiled at the United Nations in 2009 and carries forth the vision of creating a global civil society adhering to the “golden rule,” to treat others as we would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical, and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the center of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity, and respect; and

WHEREAS, It is also necessary in both public and private life to consistently and empathically refrain from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, or self-interest toward any other being or group of beings, to impoverish, exploit, or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity; and

WHEREAS, There is now a growing network of Compassionate Communities that have affirmed the Charter for Compassion with their local governments, including three countries and over 100 cities, counties, or states spread across 50 countries globally, with more than 300 international cities and communities actively organizing to create a compassionate action plan; and

WHEREAS, Research demonstrates that practicing compassion produces positive benefits in all sectors of civic and community life, including business, education, safety, public health, and economic, physical, mental, and spiritual well-being; and

WHEREAS, The State of California will become the first state in the United States to affirm the charter, and 12 local governments that have already adopted the Charter for Compassion, and the 42 compassionate communities in the state organized through “Compassionate California” partner with businesses, agencies, and community organizations ready to pitch in; partnerships that share values and goals that understand that we are better when we work together; and, above all, residents who volunteers their time, tell us what they think of what we are doing, and offer their solutions; and

WHEREAS, Adoption of the Charter for Compassion is supported by thousands of state residents who organize across the state through “Compassionate California,” and the city of San Juan Bautista regularly empowers and supports compassionate programs and services to improve the lives of all residents and treat them with dignity, with emphasis on supportive services to child and youth programs, the elderly, the disabled, the homeless, veterans, immigrants, vulnerable and protected populations such as those defined by race, ethnicity, religion, culture, gender, sexual orientation and identity, nativity, native language, and related issues, workers, and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, The residents of San Juan Bautista volunteer to uplift, protect, and demonstrate compassion for an untold number of marginalized, ignored, and disadvantaged groups because they know our culture is defined by how we treat our most vulnerable or mistreated residents; and

WHEREAS, The city Strategic Planning committee and sub-committee for Arts, Culture, Recreation and Wellness endeavors to guide the city with community input on how to implement the general plan, and the before mentioned sub-committee can guide the implementation of Compassionate San Juan Bautista self-study and action plan as a means to implement the Wellness element of the general plan,

WHEREAS, The city hopes to serve as a model for other communities— a community of compassion where anyone who wishes to live in acceptance of others can also find refuge in an environment where cultural differences are treated with respect and dignity; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the City of San Juan Bautista, that the city affirms the charter of compassion as a Compassionate City, that a compassionate San Juan Bautista is a city that recognizes the benefits of compassionate action. This is achieved by encouraging city leadership and community organizations who are working together to foster compassionate and caring actions.

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the city transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.