



REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: March 17, 2009

SUBJECT: Proclamation – Donate Life California Month

Report in Brief

The Woodland City Council has been asked to proclaim April as Donate Life California Month. This request has been presented by Golden State Donor Services (GSDS), an independent non-profit organization authorized by the Federal Government to accept anatomical gifts for transplantation and research. The agency is dedicated to meeting the needs of the community by providing families the option of organ and tissue donation for transplantation. GSDS is working with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), local governments and other non-profit organizations with similar missions across the state to promote awareness of organ donation.

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached Proclamation recognizing April 2009 as “DMV/Donate Life California Month”.

Background

Donate Life California is a public awareness and education campaign to raise awareness of the need for organ donation and the options available to people who may consider such action. The campaign is focusing on local governments as a source of promoting public awareness through proclamations approved by City Councils, education of employees and public events. Information typically provided through these promotional activities includes the following facts:

- More than 100,000 people in the United States and 20,000 in California are on organ transplant waiting lists
- At any given time more than 6,000 patients are in need of volunteer marrow donors
- The need for organ donations among Hispanic and African American communities is especially urgent

- California residents may sign up with the Donate Life California registry through the Department of Motor Vehicles

Discussion

In addition to the attached proclamation, staff will send City wide emails to all Woodland employees with information regarding organ donations. Public awareness will also be generated by a public information event scheduled at Woodland Community College on Thursday, April 2, 9AM – 12Noon. The Woodland Fire Department will also be present at the event to help call attention to this public awareness campaign.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached Proclamation recognizing April 2009 as “DMV/Donate Life California Month”.

Mark G. Deven
City Manager

Attachment: Proclamation

CITY OF WOODLAND
PROCLAMATION

DMV/DONATE LIFE CALIFORNIA MONTH – APRIL 2009

WHEREAS, organ, tissue, marrow and blood donation are life-giving acts recognized worldwide as expressions of compassion to those in need;

WHEREAS, more than 100,000 individuals nationwide and more than 20,000 in California are currently on the national organ transplant waiting list, and every 90 minutes one person dies while waiting due to the shortage of donated organs;

WHEREAS, the need for donated organs is especially urgent in Hispanic and African American communities;

WHEREAS, more than 600,000 units of blood per year are needed to meet the need in California;

WHEREAS, at any given time, 6,000 patients are in need of volunteer marrow donors;

WHEREAS, a single individual's donation of the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and small intestine can save up to eight lives; donation of tissue can save and heal the lives of up to 50 others; and a single blood donation can help three people in need;

WHEREAS, millions of lives each year are saved and healed by donors of organs, tissues, marrow and blood;

WHEREAS, the spirit of giving and decision to donate are not restricted by age or medical condition;

WHEREAS, nearly five million Californians have signed up with the state-authorized Donate Life California Registry to ensure their wishes to be organ and tissue donors are honored;

WHEREAS, California residents can sign up with the Donate Life California Registry when applying for or renewing their driver's licenses or ID cards at the California Department of Motor Vehicles;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Woodland proclaims April 2009 as "DMV/Donate Life California Month" and in doing so we encourage all Californians to check "YES!" when applying for or renewing their driver's license or I.D. card or by signing up at www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org or www.doneVIDAcalifornia.org.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2009.

Marlin H. Davies, Mayor

Artemio Pimentel, Vice Mayor

Martie L. Dote, Council Member

William L. Marble, Council Member

Jeff W. Monroe, Council Member