

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

HONORING CARLOS JOEL GONZÁLEZ

WHEREAS, the mission of the Queer Youth Leadership Awards is to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ youth in our community by increasing positive awareness of queer youth leadership and increasing safe and welcoming environments at home, at school, and in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Queer Youth Leadership Award is given annually to queer youth who are 12 to 18 years of age to acknowledge their accomplishments and the contributions they have made to their communities, whether in their homes, schools, religious institutions, athletic or academic teams, or other social groups; and

WHEREAS, Carlos Joel González began his journey in LGBTQ+ activism in sixth grade by joining Lakeview Middle School's Queer Straight Alliance (QSA), eventually rising to serve as the club's President; and

WHEREAS, now a junior at Watsonville High School, Carlos serves as Co-president of the Gay Straight Alliance club and as a PRISM leader, mentoring both middle and high school students throughout the Watsonville community; and

WHEREAS, by openly sharing his experiences as a bisexual Latino youth, Carlos has played a vital role in fostering a more inclusive, empathetic, and open-minded environment for his peers; and

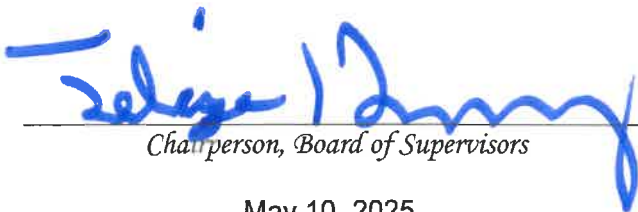
WHEREAS, Carlos is also a gifted performer who is well known in the local musical theater community, having starred not only in Watsonville High School productions but also in major roles in Cabrillo College's *In the Heights*, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, and *SpongeBob: The Musical*, as well as the All About Theater production of *Hadestown*; and

WHEREAS, Carlos has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Queer Youth Leadership Awards, including performing a heartfelt rendition of Frank Sinatra's *My Way* at last year's event; and

WHEREAS, Carlos's courage, leadership, and commitment to creating safe and supportive spaces have left a meaningful and lasting impact on his peers and the broader community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Felipe Hernandez, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, hereby honor and recognize Carlos Joel González as a recipient of the 2025 Queer Youth Leadership Award.




Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

May 10, 2025

Date