

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

HONORING IZABELLA LEON

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, Izabella Leon serves as President of Pajaro Valley High School's (PVHS) Gay Straight Alliance Club and as the Associated Student Body Commissioner of Multicultural Events, where she has helped lead powerful initiatives such as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day and the Pajaro Valley Unified School District's first joint National Coming Out Day; and

WHEREAS, Izabella is also deeply engaged in Ethnic Literature Studies and Student Action Council, where they contributed to revising the PVHS student handbook to include clearer definitions of hate-motivated speech and supported English Learner students in creating impactful CARE presentations on topics such as the history of slurs and maladaptive coping strategies; and

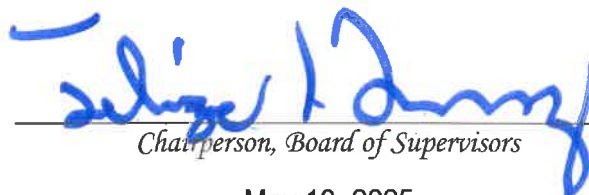
WHEREAS, through their involvement with the Youth Action Network, Izabella has helped connect youth-serving organizations, shared vital resources, and advocated for the City of Watsonville to adopt the 41 Developmental Assets Framework for Youth as a universal behavioral health standard; and

WHEREAS, as Co-chair and Youth Commissioner for the Teen Action Council and a member of Watsonville's Parks and Recreation Commission, Izabella has taken bold steps to bridge the gap between youth and local government, calling for increased youth representation on boards such as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and Santa Cruz's Youth Council, expanded access to substance abuse and mental health resources, and greater investment in afterschool programming; and

WHEREAS, Izabella's unwavering leadership, community vision, and commitment to equity and representation have made a profound and lasting difference in the lives of young people throughout her school and community.

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




Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

May 10, 2025

Date