

**AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH, March 2021  
A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS;** March is American Red Cross Month, a special time to honor the kindness of our volunteers and neighbors who aid families in need every day in Orinda, California, across the United States and around the world. Their dedication touches millions of lives each year as they carry out the organization's 140-year mission of preventing and alleviating suffering; and

**WHEREAS;** despite the difficult challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, people have stepped up to help others in need, whether it was responding to this year's record-breaking wildfires and hurricanes across the country, rolling up their sleeves to give blood when our country faced a severe blood shortage or supporting local partners to address urgent COVID-19 needs in our communities; and

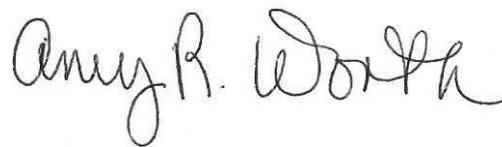
**WHEREAS;** last year in Contra Costa County, local families affected by 115 home fires, relied on American Red Cross volunteers for comfort and hope, providing emotional support, addressing immediate needs and helping families recover with emergency financial assistance or community resources; Contra Costa County residents donated 17,350 units of lifesaving blood; 3,459 local community members took classes to learn skills that save lives; 719 military members and their families received support and services; and humanitarian aid was provided internationally; and

**WHEREAS;** during last year's COVID-19 pandemic, American Red Cross worked tirelessly beside its Government, Public Health and Community partners to coordinate training efforts and a shelter exercise to plan for response during high fire danger and a pandemic, while safeguarding the health and wellbeing of our volunteers, partners and the people we serve; and

**WHEREAS;** when large disasters like the Lightning Complex Fire started in Contra Costa County, the American Red Cross and local partners were prepared to respond by opening Temporary Evacuation Sites and non-congregate shelters to provide lodging, food and services until our evacuated residents could return home. As these devastating wildfires broke out around Northern California, Contra Costa Red Cross volunteers deployed virtually and in person to help neighbors in other counties and to other disasters around the country; and

**WHEREAS;** this lifesaving work is vital to strengthening our community's resilience. Nearly 200 years since the birth of American Red Cross founder Clara Barton, we dedicate this month of March to all those who continue to advance her noble legacy, and we ask others to join in their commitment to care for people in need.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Amy R. Worth, Mayor, on behalf of the Orinda City Council do hereby proclaim March 2021 as Red Cross Month. We encourage all Americans to reach out and support its humanitarian mission.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy R. Worth". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

Amy R. Worth, Mayor