



Proclamation of the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado To Welcome the Tibetan Monks of Gaden Shartse Monastery

WHEREAS, The Tibetan monks of Gaden Shartse Monastery in India have been visiting El Dorado County annually since 2004; and

WHEREAS, Gaden Shartse Monastic College was founded in Tibet in the 15th century, and although destroyed during the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1959, forty-eight surviving members of the Monastery fled Tibet and were resettled in Mundgod in southern India through the generosity of the Indian government; and

WHEREAS, the "Gaden Shartse Monastery-in-exile" has grown in size to the current population of more than 1600 monks, with more Tibetan refugees arriving daily; and

WHEREAS, the His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, spiritual and political leader of Tibetan people, Nobel Peace Prize recipient, and head of Gaden Shartse Monastery, is known and respected throughout the world as an advocate of nonviolence, world peace, and human well-being and compassion; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the annual tours by the Gaden Shartse monks in the United States is twofold: First, as an opportunity to share the rich and beautiful culture of Tibet, and secondly to do critical fundraising for the 1600 monks of Gaden Shartse Monastic College and the surrounding Tibetan refugee community; and

WHEREAS, the cultural exchange between the Gaden Shartse monks and people of all ages and faiths in El Dorado County, presented through two weeks of activities every year in January, that includes the creation of a traditional and beautiful sand mandala, as well as numerous public ceremonies and Tibetan cultural events as well as visits to area schools, rest homes, and hospitals, and continues to provide the people of El Dorado County with first-hand experience with the Tibetan people, their ancient culture and ways of life, and the compassionate practices of Tibetan Buddhism; and

WHEREAS, the people of El Dorado County continue to show a generosity of spirit and material support to the monks of Gaden Shartse Monastery through the annual hosting of the Sand Mandala and other public events for adults and children by the Gaden Shartse monks; and

WHEREAS, the reputation for generosity and welcoming spirit of El Dorado County has reached all the way to Gaden Shartse Monastery in India; and

WHEREAS, the Gaden Shartse monks wish to be of service to the world community by nurturing peace, harmony, compassion, and tolerance;

THEREFORE, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors of El Dorado County, on behalf of the people of El Dorado County, proclaim their wish to extend a continuing hand of friendship and goodwill to the people of Tibet, and to the monks and surrounding refugee community of Gaden Shartse Monastery in India.

We wish you great success on this, your 14th annual visit to our County. May our mountains and hills continue to remind you of your exiled homeland in Tibet, and may you always continue to be welcome guests in our County and nation.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting, held the 9th day of January, 2018.

Attest:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By _____
Deputy Clerk

Michael Ranalli, Chair, Board of Supervisors

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