



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

August 5, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted By: Mark J. Gluba, Deputy City Manager

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF
POMONA POET LAUREATE PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the following resolution establishing the City of Pomona Poet Laureate Program as proposed by the Board of Library Trustees and supported by the Cultural Arts Commission:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-106 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING THE CITY
OF POMONA POET LAUREATE PROGRAM**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A poet laureate is a poet officially appointed by a government or conferring institution, typically expected to compose poems for special events and occasions. In response to broad community interest, representatives of both the Board of Library Trustees and Cultural Arts Commissions have explored the possibility of establishing a City of Pomona Poet Laureate program due to the close association of poetry to the literary and cultural arts. In support of these efforts, the Pomona Public Library Foundation has committed to funding an annual stipend to support the City Poet Laureate program.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE. Limited annual expenses for the Poet Laureate stipend, as proposed, will be fully paid by the Pomona Public Library Foundation.

DISCUSSION:

In response to broad community interest, the Board of Library Trustees and Cultural Arts Commission have explored the possibility of establishing an official City of Pomona Poet Laureate. The Library Trustees, in consultation with the Cultural Arts Commission are now in the process of soliciting applications from qualified poets to serve in this honorary position. The

person designated as Pomona's Poet Laureate would be called upon to write and present original poetry at selected City and/or community events, lead occasional workshops and seminars and facilitate a broad host of activities to encourage community participation in the literary and spoken arts of poetry.

As proposed, this program would require no City financial support, but would serve both as an avenue for culturally enhancing City and other community events while providing an accomplished figurehead to foster the development and community participation and awareness of the poetic arts in the City. An annual honorarium of \$1,000.00 will be provided by the Pomona Public Library Foundation.

Due to the close relationship of poetry to both the literary and cultural arts, valid arguments could be made for housing such a program within the framework of the Board of Library Trustees and/or the Cultural Arts Commission. However, since funding for the Program is being provided by the Library Foundation and in the interest of reducing potential administrative burdens (agenda creation/postings, meeting scheduling, preparation of minutes, etc.) associated with establishment of an additional body or subcommittee composed of representatives from each of these commissions, the Board of Library Trustees have been designated as the proposed commission for official Poet Laureate Program administrative responsibilities. In consideration of the close relationship to cultural arts, the program, as proposed, encourages collaboration with representatives of the arts community and affords Cultural Arts Commissioners enhanced participation in public Trustee deliberations on this matter, to facilitate joint engagement in the Poet Laureate Program.

Upon completion of the selection process, representatives of the Board of Trustees and Cultural Arts Commission will bring the successful candidate forward at a future Council Meeting for official introduction to the City Council and community.

Prepared by:

Mark J. Gluba
Deputy City Manager

ATTACHMENT: Resolution No. 2019-106