



Scenic Pacifica
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

CITY OF PACIFICA

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PRESS RELEASE

June 23, 2022

UNITY EVENT AT SUNSET RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Pacifica, CA) - On June 28, 2022, the City of Pacifica, Pacifica School District, Jefferson Union School District, and CoastPride will host a Unity Event from 5 PM to 6 PM at Sunset Ridge Elementary School in Pacifica. The event aims to provide an affirming and educational way for the Coastside community to stand together and vehemently counter all acts of hate.

The City of Pacifica and CoastPride recently partnered with local businesses to uplift families and staff who identify as LGBTQ+ and to educate the public about the need for us to advocate and stand up for the rights of all people. On June 4th, Pacifica held its first Pride Celebration and demonstrated its great support of inclusiveness, respect, and valuing the Coastside LGBTQ+ community. Schools and businesses raised the Rainbow and Progress flags. The City and CoastPride distributed multi-lingual Welcoming Signs with the logos of the City and CoastPride to local businesses. LGBTQ+ and allies came together in Pacifica's first annual Pride parade.

Two days after this historic event, a Pride Flag, which was hanging outside of a classroom was torn down, burned, and then returned to the school. The flag was found on the ground on the other side of the school building the following day. The incident was reported by KRON4 on June 17, 2022 (see link: <https://www.kron4.com/news/pride-flag-burned-at-pacifica-elementary-school-being-investigated-as-hate-crime/>)

Pacifica Mayor Mary Bier added these words: "The City of Pacifica is a place where we welcome, represent, and celebrate the great diversity of our community and the Coastside. Our efforts with CoastPride are one way we can continue to carry out the City's commitment to our values of inclusiveness and acceptance, and dedication to opposing any attempt to marginalize people or groups. We are proud to be active partners with CoastPride and the LGBTQ+ community."

Ellie Cundiff, Principal of Sunset Ridge expressed that "Sunset Ridge staff and community has always been committed to supporting diversity and inclusion. It's crucial that we come together as a community to ensure that everyone feels welcome and safe. There is no room for hate."

According to CoastPride's Jenny Walter, "Our Coastside community celebrates and supports diversity and acceptance. We stand united against hate crimes, bias crimes, harassment and discrimination. We will not allow this crime to sow fear and anger. We ask you to join the peaceful gathering on June 28th as we show the power of unity and inclusiveness."

Please join us for an hour of unity at Sunset Ridge Elementary School on Friday, June 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. to affirm our values of inclusiveness and take action against hate. We thank Pacifica and the Coastside for being an inclusive and loving community!

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