



PRESS RELEASE

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PLEASANTON APPOINTS TEEN POET LAUREATE FOR 2021-2022

Pleasanton, Calif. – The City of Pleasanton today announced the selection of its 2021-22 Teen Poet Laureate. Pleasanton teen, and Amador Valley High School student, Nikita Jayaprakash was appointed to the position by the Pleasanton City Council during their June 15, 2021 meeting.

The position of Teen Poet Laureate was open to all Pleasanton high school juniors and seniors who enjoy writing, inspiring others, and are interested in contributing to their community. The application period was open throughout the month of April. Four candidates participated in interviews with Library and Civic Arts staff, shared samples of their writings, and provided community references. Staff recommended Nikita for the position; she was appointed by the Civic Arts and Library Commissions during a joint meeting on May 24, 2021; and her appointment was later confirmed by City Council.

The Teen Poet Laureate is a one-year (academic year) volunteer post that brings fun and creativity to various City of Pleasanton events throughout the year. The core function of the role is to help foster an appreciation for composing, reading, reciting, and listening to poetry in and around the City of Pleasanton. Nikita will serve as Teen Poet Laureate from August 2021 through May 2022.

Nikita's active involvement in the City of Pleasanton stood out during the application and interview process. She has previously volunteered at the Pleasanton Public Library as a Kid Power volunteer and at the Senior Center as a Leader in Training. She has also received the Award of Excellence at the district level, the Award of Merit at the state level, and has been published in two anthologies.

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