



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 12/19/2023

ITEM NO: 6

DATE: December 11, 2023
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Appoint William Ward Butler to the Honorary Position of Town Poet Laureate to Serve a Three-Year Term Beginning in January of 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint William Ward Butler to the honorary position of Town Poet Laureate to serve a three-year term beginning in January of 2024.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Los Gatos Poet Laureate is an honorary position first established in 2010 to further the appreciation and advancement of poetry and literary arts in Los Gatos. The Poet Laureate serves a three-year term and is selected through an open call for applications and competitive selection process. This year, the selection panel included Mayor Ristow, Arts and Culture Commissioner Colantoni, Library Board Commissioner Lowe, and Youth Commissioner Bagora.

DISCUSSION:

The selection panel recommends William Ward Bulter for appointment to the honorary position.

William Ward Butler is a writer and educator living in Los Gatos, California. He is the author of the poetry chapbook *Life History* from Ghost City Press and holds a master's degree in education from UC Santa Cruz. He has received support from the Napa Valley Writers' Conference, the Catamaran Writing Conference, and the Community of Writers. He is a poetry reader for *TriQuarterly*, the literary magazine of Northwestern University, and the poetry editor of *Frozen Sea*.

PREPARED BY: Ryan Baker
Library Director

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, and Town Attorney

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SUBJECT: Appoint William Ward Butler to the Honorary Position of Town Poet Laureate

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DISCUSSION (continued):

If appointed, William Ward Butler will serve a three-year term which will begin on January 1, 2024 and end on December 31, 2026. The first ceremonial appearance of the Poet Laureate at a Council meeting traditionally is in April, coinciding with National Poetry Month.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no anticipated fiscal impact associated with the appointment of the Poet Laureate and its programs and projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

Attachments:

1. Selected Poems of William Ward Butler