

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 11:07 AM
To: Council <Council@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: Proclamation Request - Team HBV San Jose

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Mayor Badame,

I hope this letter finds you well. First of all, I wanted to express my appreciation for your dedication to serving our community and its residents.

My name is Walton Li, and I am a student at Archbishop Mitty High School. I am writing on behalf of Team HBV San Jose. We are a youth outreach branch of the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University.

The month of May is designated as Hepatitis Awareness Month in the United States, and May 19th is Hepatitis Testing Day.

To help create a concerted hepatitis B and liver cancer awareness effort, the Team HBV San Jose, led by a group of 13 Archbishop Mitty High School students would like to ask the Los Gatos Town Council to declare a week in May as "Hepatitis B Awareness Week" with a proclamation. This week shall be determined by the week that contains May 19th, which is Hepatitis Testing Day, and also coincides with Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage month. This will be an effort to increase awareness among city leadership and increase recognition of this serious health threat.

Hepatitis B is a serious infection of the liver that is responsible for up to 80% of liver cancer cases. 1 in 10 Asian and Pacific Islanders are chronically infected with hepatitis B, and 25% of those chronically infected will die of liver cancer or liver failure without proper monitoring or treatment. In fact, 1 million people die each year due to complications caused by hepatitis B. Most of those infected are not aware of their infection because there are no symptoms until it is too late. However, there are simple blood tests that can be done to detect an individual's hepatitis B infection status, and

there is a safe and effective vaccine available that can prevent individuals from contracting the virus.

In conjunction with the town council proclamation, our chapter will also hold a week of activities in the community and on social media to raise awareness about hepatitis B and liver cancer during the week that contains May 19.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you and working together to help our community members live healthier lives.

Sincerely,

Walton Li

Founder, Team HBV San Jose

<https://www.teamhbvsj.org/>