WHEREAS, one year ago today, the COVID-19 pandemic claimed its first victim in Contra Costa County; and

WHEREAS, since that first tragedy, 730 additional lives have been lost to this pandemic, leaving behind a hole in our hearts and our communities; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Martinez, COVID-19 has claimed 19 treasured members of our community; and

WHEREAS, these deaths have left behind grieving families, friends and communities struggling to rebuild lives shattered by an unprecedented health crisis; and

WHEREAS, because of the need for social distancing, we have been denied the opportunity to come together to mourn these passings and draw strength from our friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, given that no community, no city and no family has been untouched by this tragedy; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that over one-third of county residents have had their first vaccination and nearly a fifth are fully vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, seeing case numbers continue to fall steadily from a high of 60 per 100,000 in December to less than 7 per 100,000 today; and

WHEREAS, appreciating that the community continues to be vigilant and practice preventative health behaviors such as masking and social distancing; and

WHEREAS, as vaccines, treatments and community sacrifices give us hope that this tragic COVID-19 crisis may soon be behind us.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Rob Schroder, Mayor of the City of Martinez, on behalf of the Martinez City Council, do hereby recognize today, March 22, 2021 as a day of Hope and Healing that will memorialize those lives we’ve lost, the suffering we’ve borne and the sacrifices we have collectively made, while simultaneously joining with our neighboring cities to cast a light of hope on a future free of COVID-19.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Martinez to be affixed hereto this 22nd day of March, 2021.

Rob Schroder, Mayor