

**WHEREAS:** the City of Porterville recognizes the enduring influence of faith, perseverance, and the pursuit of truth in shaping our community, guided by the principles of individual liberty, justice, and the common good; and

**WHEREAS:** the people of Porterville—of diverse religious traditions and beliefs—have contributed to the city’s strength and character, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to service, charity, and civic engagement; and

**WHEREAS:** houses of worship, faith-based organizations, and community leaders have played a vital role in fostering compassion, unity, and support for the most vulnerable among us, providing food for the hungry, shelter for those in need, and encouragement in times of hardship; and

**WHEREAS:** the Founding Fathers of the United States acknowledged the importance of religious liberty in shaping our nation, as reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, which affirm that all people are endowed with inherent rights and dignity; and

**WHEREAS:** the United States was established on principles that safeguard freedom of thought, conscience, and belief, ensuring that individuals may practice their faith, or none at all, without government interference, in keeping with the First Amendment’s protection of religious liberty; and

**WHEREAS:** the citizens of Porterville have historically embraced values of faith, hope, and charity—principles that transcend religious affiliations and unite us in our shared commitment to justice, peace, and service to others; and

**WHEREAS:** religious observances, including those of the Easter season, serve as an opportunity for people of faith to reflect on themes of renewal, redemption, and service to the greater good, reinforcing the importance of spiritual and ethical values in our society; and

**WHEREAS:** the City of Porterville acknowledges the role that faith-based traditions have played in shaping the cultural and historical landscape of our nation, while reaffirming our dedication to upholding religious freedom for all individuals, as enshrined in the Constitution; and

**WHEREAS:** Holy Week and Easter are recognized and observed by millions worldwide as a time of reflection, renewal, and gratitude, inspiring many to serve their communities and seek a deeper understanding of faith and purpose; and

**WHEREAS:** we honor the countless individuals—past and present—whose faith has inspired acts of kindness, charity, and justice, strengthening the moral and civic fabric of Porterville; and

**WHEREAS:** the blessings of liberty, prosperity, and peace are best preserved when a community remains committed to principles of mutual respect, ethical leadership, and the protection of individual rights;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG MEISTER, Mayor of Porterville, on behalf of the Porterville City Council affirm that the City of Porterville hereby expresses its appreciation for the contributions of faith-based communities to the betterment of our city, recognizing their role in promoting service, unity, and civic responsibility; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City of Porterville reaffirms its commitment to the constitutional principles of religious liberty, ensuring that all individuals are free to practice their beliefs, or refrain from doing so, in accordance with their conscience; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City of Porterville invites all faith-based organizations to gather together in observance, celebration, and reverence for Easter, a time for all of Porterville to share in the festivities that accompany this Holiday that is celebrated the world over; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City of Porterville recognizes the cultural and spiritual significance of Holy Week and Easter, acknowledging the impact of faith traditions on our community, while upholding the values of inclusivity, respect, and civic harmony; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that the City of Porterville, in honoring the diverse faiths and traditions of its residents, encourages reflection, charity, and service as guiding principles for strengthening our community and preserving the freedoms upon which our nation was founded.

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