

# RESOLUTION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
RESOLUTION HONORING

## Zoppè Italian Family Circus

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**WHEREAS**, the Zoppè Italian Family Circus returns to Redwood City for its 17th year, delighting audiences of all ages with a spectacular two-hour performance that embodies the traditions of Old-World Italian circus arts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zoppè Italian Family Circus, with its intimate 500-seat tent and unique one-ring format, immerses audiences in a captivating experience led by the beloved character Nino the Clown and driven by a central narrative that incorporates acrobatics, equestrian artistry, and clowning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zoppè Circus, founded 181 years ago through the inspiring union of Napoleone Zoppè, a circus performer, and Ermenglida, a ballerina, in Venice, Italy, has become a legendary institution in European circus arts, passed down through generations and preserving a deep-rooted heritage of passion, tradition, and artistry; and

**WHEREAS**, Napoleone’s great-grandson, Alberto Zoppè, continued the family legacy by bringing the circus to new audiences in America and Europe, and through connections with legendary figures such as Orson Welles, and his contribution to the Oscar-winning film *The Greatest Show on Earth* cemented his place in the annals of circus history; and

**WHEREAS**, Giovanni Zoppè, Alberto’s son and the current director, revived the Zoppè Family Circus 21 years ago and has since maintained its traditional European charm, portraying Nino the Clown and leading performances that are celebrated for their emotional depth, humor, and engaging storylines; and

**WHEREAS**, Redwood City holds special significance for the Zoppè family, where the circus has set up its tent for the past 17 years, including the touching moment when Giovanni’s son, Julien Veneto Zoppè, was introduced to the family circus tradition just six days after his birth at Sequoia Hospital, and where their grandfather Alberto gave his final performance, passing on the cherished legacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zoppè Italian Family Circus, through its annual performances, fosters a sense of wonder, community, and shared cultural heritage, bringing warmth, smiles, and unforgettable memories to all who attend;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo hereby honors and commends the Zoppè Italian Family Circus for its remarkable contributions to the cultural life of Redwood City, for its dedication to preserving and sharing the treasured traditions of Italian circus arts, and for creating an experience that continues to inspire, entertain, and connect our community.

**Dated: November 19th, 2024**

SUPERVISORS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*WARREN SLOCUM, PRESIDENT*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*DAVE PINE*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*NOELIA CORZO*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*RAY MUELLER*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*DAVID J. CANEPA*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors