

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 296220

ADOPTED ON APR 02 2002

WHEREAS, Mark Kassab, with his two brothers Ron and Ghassan, moved to San Diego in 1977 from the Chaldean provinces of northern Iraq to join his mother Najiba and sister Jewell and embark on a new life filled with the promise of freedom and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, in 1981 Mark Kassab, along with Ron and Jewell, opened Murphy's Market at Fairmount Avenue and Dwight Street in City Heights, and not long thereafter established a long history of community support for educational institutions, athletic programs, and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1980s, Mark Kassab and Murphy's Market embarked on a long-standing partnership in education with elementary schools in City Heights, adopting schools to assist with their special needs, including purchasing books for the students and school libraries and sponsoring school sports teams; and

WHEREAS, Mark Kassab has actively participated in Read Across America at Rosa Parks Elementary School since its inception, purchasing a new book for each child who comes into the school for the event, which translated into 800 books in 2002 and 780 books in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Mark Kassab also participates in Read Across America at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School and Marion Green Elementary School, where he purchased 600 books for both schools in 2002, and also donates 10 bicycles to Marion Green Elementary each year to be awarded to students who have perfect attendance, excel in mathematics, and who have shown high levels of academic improvement; and

WHEREAS, Mark Kassab sits on the school site councils at Rosa Parks Elementary School and Hamilton Elementary School, and sponsors the Parents Room at Rosa Parks Elementary which hosts the nearly 250 parents who volunteer at the school to make their time

spent at the school more enjoyable and comfortable; and

WHEREAS, Mark Kassab also sponsors an annual Halloween party at Rosa Parks Elementary School, providing a safe environment for over 2,000 children, and purchases 300 carnations each year on Mother's Day for each female teacher and volunteer; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Mark Kassab donated refreshments to the more than 1,000 community members who attended the grand opening of the Mid-City Police Substation in the City Heights Urban Village, and provided food and drink for the volunteers who helped spruce up area homes at the first three Neighborhood Housing Services "Facelift" events in City Heights; and

WHEREAS, Mark Kassab has been a sponsor of every National Night Out community crime-fighting rally in City Heights since its inception in 1995, providing food and drink for approximately 2,000 people each year; and

WHEREAS, Mark Kassab currently sponsors one neighborhood soccer team and two soccer teams at Rosa Parks Elementary School, where he will soon sponsor one local girls soccer team, and also sponsored a Little League team in North Park in 1997; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 Mark Kassab opened City Heights Chevron gasoline station, car wash and convenience store at I-15 and University Avenue- the first new business associated with the I-15 business nodes at University Avenue and El Cajon Boulevard--where he permits local organizations to use the car wash for fund-raisers on the weekend and where, in one weekend, he raised over \$2,800 for the 9/11 Victims Relief Fund; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 Mark Kassab was honored by General Colin Powell and the America's Promise Foundation for his commitment to community service, and in 2000 was honored by the San Diego Unified School District for his service to area schools; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the citizens of San Diego, does hereby recognize the civic contributions of Mark Kassab and commends him for his years of service and boundless generosity to the residents,

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community organizations and educational institutions of City Heights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that April 2, 2002, be and is hereby proclaimed to be
"MARK KASSAB DAY" in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By Stuart H. Swett
Stuart H. Swett
Senior Deputy City Attorney

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