

City of Woodland

PROCLAMATION

DEAD CAT ALLEY

WHEREAS, In 1853, The City of Woodland, then known as Yolo City, was born when Henry Wyckoff built a small box frame store on the southeast corner of what is now First Street and Dead Cat Alley; and

WHEREAS, On February 8, 1873, a Yolo Democrat report mentioned Dead Cat Alley by name, evidence that the alley was so-called prior to that date; and

WHEREAS, In 1886, a Sanborn Map revealed a China Town along Dead Cat Alley between College and Elm; and

WHEREAS, A China Town along Dead Cat Alley developed, and was concentrated between Second and Elm Streets but extended between Fourth to Walnut Streets. Residents of this part of Dead Cat Alley, also known as China Alley, included Man Hop, Ah Min, Boy Ying, Ah Fat, Gee Lee and Quong Sing; and

WHEREAS, On July 2, 1892 the Great Fire of Woodland started in a small barn on Dead Cat Alley in back of Bartolli's grocery store between First and Second Streets; and

WHEREAS, In 1912, Woodland's first garage, the Electric Garage Company, was built at Dead Cat Alley and Third Street to sell and repair Studebaker electric wagons manufactured in Placerville; and

WHEREAS, From 1925 until 1947, Chinese immigrants Hew Din and Lock Shee Din raised their family and operated Tai Lee Laundry on Dead Cat Alley, where four of their eight children were born; and

WHEREAS, About 1940, a photograph of young Henry Din, using modified tennis rackets as crutches, taken by Judge Hamilton was circulated across the United States by the Associated Press and became famous; and

WHEREAS, On May 7, 1962, Woodland City Council officially named the passage Dead Cat Alley; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, the California Department of Parks and Recreation published the archaeological report entitled The Chinese Laundry on Second Street Papers: Archaeology at the Woodland Opera House site – California Archaeological Report Number 24, a Study About Human Activities on Dead Cat Alley; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 the Downtown Woodland Historic District, of which Dead Cat Alley passes through a portion, was added to the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, In February 2002, the Woodland Art Center created the Dead Cat Alley Nine Lives Project and adopted Dead Cat Alley as an art venue to promote its historical and educational value and its potential as a tourist attraction”; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Woodland Art Center received a Preservation Award from the City of Woodland Historic Preservation Commission for the Dead Cat Alley walking tour booklet; and

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Historical Society, the Stroll Through History Committee, and the Woodland Art Center endorse the preservation and enhancement of Dead Cat Alley; and

WHEREAS, the annual Stroll Through History features a tour of Dead Cat Alley which is highlighted by historical plaques; and

WHEREAS, The recently updated Walking Tour book, “*Explore Historic Woodland*” features a tour of Dead Cat Alley; and

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Historical Society, the Stroll Through History Committee, and the Woodland Art Center endorse the preservation of Dead Cat Alley as extending from Cleveland Street to Freeman Park; and

WHEREAS, Dead Cat Alley is a unique and memorable name; and

WHEREAS, There are more valuable stories and facts about all parts of Dead Cat Alley yet to be revealed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, We, the members of the Woodland City Council do hereby recognize Dead Cat Alley as an interesting and colorful part of Woodland’s past, as a significant historical and archaeological resource, and as a community point of interest, and through continuing public and private efforts that the alley be enhanced and improved, and should remain accessible as a continuous passage from Cleveland Street to Freeman Park, for future citizens, merchants, and tourists.

Dated this 27th day of November, 2007.

David M. Flory, Mayor

Marlin H. Davies, Vice-Mayor
Jeff Monroe, Council Member

William L. Marble, Council Member
Artemio Pimentel, Council Member