

CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL
PROCLAMATION HONORING NANCY RADDATZ
APRIL 26, 2021

WHEREAS, after a lifetime of sharing her love of dance with thousands of students, West St. Paul business owner Nancy Raddatz has exited the stage of this world; and

WHEREAS, Nancy began studying dance at the age of two. At the age of 12, and with nine years of dance under her belt, she persuaded her dad to build her a studio in the basement of their West St. Paul home. Nancy has had her own studio at 120 Butler Avenue East in West St. Paul for more than 70 years; and

WHEREAS, at age 14, Nancy choreographed her first recital, with 27 students. Three years later, she contracted polio, and the dancing stopped for a short time until she strengthened muscles in her legs and arms, stating of her recovery that, "If it weren't for my dance, I very well could have ended up in a wheelchair," but she went on to study dance from elite instructors in New York, Chicago, London and Paris; and

WHEREAS, Nancy went on to teach her own choreography in dance conventions coast to coast, has danced professionally in many St. Paul Civic Opera productions such as Kismet, Showboat, and Guys and Dolls, and choreographed West Side Story and Irma La Douce for the Bloomington Civic Theater and the professional theater in Medora, North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, For ten years, Nancy was choreographer for the nightly professional production at the Edgewater Inn in Minneapolis, was choreographer for Disabled Genius at the Guthrie Theater, and was choreographer for the Minnesota Kicks Soccer Team Cheerline for three years; and

WHEREAS, Nancy has been active in the local community, choreographing West Side Story, The Boyfriend, and Li'l Abner for Brady and Visitation High Schools, and originating the Brady Danceline. For six years, Nancy was choreographer of the St. Croix Lutheran High School Croixaliers, and instructed more than 560 Henry Sibley students in a dance program; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, Nancy established The Uniquely Abled Dance Center to share the joy of dance with the physically and mentally disabled, which operates entirely with volunteers working one-with-one and classes are free of charge, with the mission of being a caring community organization rather than a profit-oriented endeavor; and

WHEREAS, Nancy has been a pillar of the West St. Paul business and arts community for over seventy years and has created an ever-growing dance family, full of love and a passion for dance. Over the years, proceeds from the West St. Paul studio's annual spring recitals have raised more than \$140,000 for scholarships and performing arts programs at Henry Sibley High School.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Honorable Mayor David Napier and members of the City Council of the City of West St. Paul hereby recognize Nancy Raddatz for her love of dance and dedication to her community.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul, Minnesota, this 26th day of April 2021.

David J. Napier, Mayor