MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Kellie Stickney, Communications Program Manager
Amy Bolen, Executive Assistant

Date: Marcy 10, 2020

Subject: Prudential Spirit of Community Award Honoree Sanika Datar

RECOMMENDATION:
That the Mayor recognize Prudential Spirit of Community Award Washington State Honoree, Sanika Datar.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:
The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is the United States' largest youth individual recognition program based exclusively on volunteer community service (https://spirit.prudential.com/). This program selects 102 student Honorees, two for each state (one for Middle School level, and one for High school), to earn $1,000 in scholarships, a silver medallion, and a trip to Washington D.C. in May where 10 National Honorees will be chosen. Sanika Datar from Environmental & Adventure School in Kirkland was recognized as the Honoree for Middle school level and will be representing Washington state during the Nationals event that will be held in Washington DC May 2-5.

Sanika was selected for her leadership in her school’s Community Stewardship Projects, which provide students with opportunities for active involvement in both environmental and social stewardship. Sanika celebrated Earth Day 2019 by hosting an event in her backyard to educate her younger sister and other preschoolers in her Finn Hill neighborhood on things they can do to help care for our planet’s natural environment, including a scavenger hunt in a nearby park to locate recyclable items and a hands-on opportunity to learn the proper way to recycle different types of items. Sanika not only embraced her own passion for environmental advocacy, good stewardship and volunteerism, but also taught and inspired others. Sanika’s further volunteer efforts including planting trees and removing invasive species from local wooded areas, and she is also a member of the Kirkland Youth Council.

Sanika and her mother, Seema Datar, will attend the Council meeting on March 17 to receive this recognition.

Attachment A: Proclamation
A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Recognizing Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program
State Honoree Sanika Datar

WHEREAS, every year the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program selects a total of 102 State Honorees, one middle school student and one high school student from each state, who are invited on an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. in May for four days of events, tours, sightseeing and fanfare, with the opportunity to become one of the 10 State Honorees named America’s top youth volunteers of the year; and

WHEREAS, Lake Washington School District 7th grade student and Finn Hill neighborhood resident Sanika Datar has been selected as the middle school level Prudential Spirit of Community Award program State Honoree for 2020, one of only two students in the State of Washington to earn this prestigious honor; and

WHEREAS, for the first time in the history of the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, both Washington State Honorees are Lake Washington School District students, including Sanika, who attends Environmental and Adventure School, and Sammamish resident Adithi Raghavan, who attends International Community School; and

WHEREAS, Sanika has participated in her school’s Community Stewardship Projects, which provide students with opportunities for active involvement in both environmental and social stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Sanika’s love for the outdoors is exemplified in her thoughtful desire to improve the environment through proactive measures and definitive actions; and

WHEREAS, Sanika celebrated Earth Day 2019 by hosting an event in her backyard to educate her younger sister and other preschoolers in her Finn Hill neighborhood on things they can do to help care for our planet’s natural environment, including a scavenger hunt in a nearby park to locate recyclable items and a hands-on opportunity to learn the proper way to recycle different types of items; and

WHEREAS, through this extraordinary act, Sanika not only embraced her own passion for environmental advocacy, good stewardship and volunteerism, but sought to instill this passion in others through a deliberate effort to teach and inspire those around her; and

WHEREAS, Sanika’s eagerness to have a positive impact has blossomed into further volunteer efforts including planting trees and removing invasive species from local wooded areas, and has fed her desire to secure a position on the Kirkland Youth Council, with the goal of continuing to have a lasting and positive impact on not only the environment, but the Kirkland community as a whole.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, on behalf of the Kirkland City Council, do hereby commend 12-year-old Kirkland Resident Sanika Datar for her recognition as a 2020 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program State Honoree and celebrate her accomplishments.

Signed this 17th day of March 2020

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Penny Sweet, Mayor