
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 3:13 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Comment re; 7-4. Proclamation – World Polio Day (City Council Meeting, Oct 18, 2021)

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Regarding 7-4. Proclamation – World Polio Day

My name is Paul Giganti. I am the current President of the Albany Rotary Club, a community and international service organization. I wish to speak in favor of 7-4 Proclamation—World Polio Day.

In the midst of our current Covid 19 pandemic, we must not forget that this was not the first disease to threaten the lives of children. Polio, a 20th century virus was as feared by parents as Covid is now. However, we are now on the brink of eliminating Polio.

Due to the tireless efforts of world health organizations, governments, and volunteers, such as those from the International Rotary Club, we are very close to that goal. Only two cases of live Polio were registered world-wide last year; one in Pakistan and one in Afghanistan, and there are now fewer new cases each year.

The potential to eliminate Polio gives us hope that just as smallpox before it, we can conquer diseases if we work together, including Covid 19 someday. When there have been no new cases of Polio reported world-wide for two years, we will finally be able to say that Polio has been eradicated from our world forever.

We're not there yet, but with recognition of World Polio Day, we encourage dedicated health workers and volunteers to continue the fight. Please join the Albany Rotary Club in proclaiming October 24, 2021, World Polio Day. Thank you.

Paul Giganti, President
Albany Rotary Club
<https://www.albanycarotary.org/>