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WHEREAS, the previous Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan was adopted in October of 2004 and was used to identify funding priorities and capital improvement needs for the Albany Park system; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2020, the Council authorized the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the update to the 2004 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan seeking firms with proven experience and knowledge in park and recreation planning, master plan preparation, inclusive practices, physical park access issues, project management, and effective public engagement skills; and

WHEREAS, Groundworks Office’s scope included a robust and innovative outreach and engagement plan, well-organized and efficient timeline with concrete deliverables for each task, research-based process driven approach, deep analysis of Recreation and Community Services trends and policies and inclusive practices, combined with a close understanding and community awareness of the values, opportunities and challenges facing Albany’s park system; and

WHEREAS, Groundworks conducted months of outreach to gather input on project ideas, policies and programs and the final draft of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan includes feedback received at the October and November Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission meetings; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan is a 10-year planning tool based on the General Plan that explains what projects have been funded in the past and what projects may be eligible for funding in the future as well as provides recommendations for a systematic and prioritized approach for the design of parks and open space; and

WHEREAS, upon approval of the Master Plan by the City Council, a Notice of Exemption from CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) will be filed with the County Clerk on the basis that the Open Space Plan is not a project, as it will not, reasonably foreseeably, directly, or indirectly, result in any physical impact on the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albany City Council hereby adopts the 2021 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan.

PRESTON JORDAN, MAYOR