

City of Albany

Proclamation

IN HONOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK May 1 – 7, 2022

WHEREAS, Public Service Recognition Week is celebrated the first full week in May nationwide, and is a time set aside to honor those who serve our nation as federal, state, county, and local government employees; and

WHEREAS, our community is served every day by City of Albany staff including the City's Administration Department, City Clerk Office, Community Development Department, Finance Department, Fire Department, Human Resources, Police Department, Public Works Department, and Recreation & Community Services Department; and

WHEREAS, the public servants of the City of Albany have demonstrated commitment and dedication throughout the global pandemic, quickly shifting to providing essential services both virtually and by appointment to continue to serve our community; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Department provides critical public information, promoting City programs and services through City mailers, flyers, posters, banners, the City website and to over 6,800 subscribers to the City's eNews, over 1,000 subscribers to the local business eNews, over 3,000 subscribers to Recreation & Senior eNews, has more than 6,500 Facebook followers, over 2,000 Instagram followers, 985 Twitter followers, and 797 YouTube subscribers; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Department includes the City's KALB Channel 33 services, providing continuous stream and broadcasting of community media/meetings and the channel has had 30,501 YouTube views and provided 5,271 hours of YouTube watch time in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Department includes Economic Development, which provides informational resources, marketing, and support to Albany's businesses and prospective businesses through direct outreach, the ZoomProspector platform which offers free consumer insights to the business community, a quarterly e-newsletter, social media mentions, and in overseeing programs such as Albany Local Week and the COVID Small Business Assistance Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Department with the Office of the City Clerk conducted all City public meetings virtually during the pandemic providing appointed/elected officials, staff, and public a readily accessible way to participate and engage in local government; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the Office of the City Clerk processed 11 Ordinances (including Urgency Ordinances), 121 Resolutions, 25 Proclamations, 30+ submitted bids and proposals, over 100 public records requests, and more than 300 City Council Agenda items; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany received recertification in July 2021 continuing as a Passport Acceptance Facility to accept U.S. Passport applications on behalf of U.S. Department of State, and continues to serve our community with passport applications; and

WHEREAS, the IT (Information Technology) Division continues to support staff during the pandemic with VPN (Virtual Private Network) access and remote support for employees to be able to work remotely, and proactively pursues additional measures to ensure the security of the City's network and associated technology; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the Community Development Department staffed 34 Commission and Committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Community Development Department's Planning & Building Division processed 80 planning applications (an 18% increase compared to 2020), 160 encroachment permits, 764 building permits (a 19% increase compared with 2020); and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Department's Transportation Division is actively involved in the planning and design of transportation safety improvement projects including improving pedestrian visibility at intersections, bicycle facility signage and striping, the San Pablo Avenue Complete Streets project, and safety improvements for the Ohlone Greenway crossings at Solano and Marin; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Department's Sustainability Division leads environmental programs and outreach, and in 2021 the Division continued implementation of the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, which included adopting additional green building measures for new construction and remodels, and developing multifamily electric vehicle charging and home electrification rebate programs; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department issued 2,396 payments to 641 individuals and organizations in fiscal year 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department issued approximately 2,000 business licenses in calendar year 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department continues to implement operational enhancements to further the City's ability to responsibly project long-term budgeting and asset replacement needs; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Fire Department maintained an average median response time for all medical calls of 3.30 minutes and; Fire suppression units outperformed the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) response standard of 9 minutes and 20 seconds 90% of the time; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Fire Department educated school aged children in fire prevention and safety in 2021 through a virtual program format; and performed Fire Code Life Safety Inspections for all multifamily housing, schools, and businesses within Albany; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Fire Department deployed to major wildfires at the Dixie Fire, Caldor Fire and KNP Complex Fire; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Fire Department continues the City's Disaster Preparedness/Emergency management efforts and works in coordination with other City Departments to further the City's abilities to respond in the event of a disaster; and entered into a memorandum of understanding with Albany CERT; and integrated the use of Zonehaven as part of the emergency operations plan; and held an evacuation of the Albany Hill drill exercise virtually; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department strives to provide a safe, healthy and positive working environment for City of Albany employees; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department provides services to former City of Albany employees, current City of Albany employees, potential new employees through the recruitment and selection process, and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department quickly developed several new internal procedures for safe and effective continuance of all essential functions in response to the global pandemic including virtual onboarding, interviews, and meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department received more than 600 applications for employment and filled over 15 vacancies in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Police Department began using TEXT to 9-1-1, providing new technology for citizens to report emergencies; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the need to better serve the community the Albany Police Department participated in Autism Training and had a department member certified as an instructor; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Police Department conducted over 2,300 business/building checks in 2021 to ensure both opened and closed businesses were kept safe; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Police Department dispatch center handled over 31,000 incidents in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department operates and maintains the City's buildings, parks, open spaces, sidewalks, urban forest, roadways and infrastructure systems and in 2021, Albany maintenance staff completed more than 2,000 work orders to respond to City maintenance needs, including but not limited to cleaning and inspecting sewer and storm drain lines, removing vegetation hazards in the public right-of-way, performing repairs at City buildings, cleaning and maintaining City park facilities, and responding to urgent after-hours calls; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 and 2021, in the unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic, the Public Works Department partnered with Human Resources to develop procedures and practices for safe City operations, procured and safely distributed cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment for City staff, continued to provide necessary services to the community, and monitored and managed closures and reopening of City facilities including City parks in response to changing County and State guidance; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Public Works Department completed the fourth round of sidewalk repairs under the City's Sidewalk Repair Program, funded by the local Measure P1 Sidewalk Parcel Tax, with rehabilitation work spanning a total of 61 locations and 9,500 square feet of sidewalk, and partnered with a consultant to complete a comprehensive survey of City sidewalk conditions for improved prioritization of sidewalk repair locations for future projects; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department actively administers the City's Pavement Management Plan, covering approximately 29.4 centerline roadway miles and associated features, and spanning over 5,000,000 square feet of pavement, and in 2021 completed construction of the Adams Street Pavement Rehabilitation Project (22,000 square feet of paving), Phase I of the Washington Ave Pavement Rehabilitation Project (50,000 square feet of paving), and a Pothole & Base Repair Project, with a two-year cycle of future projects in planning and design, as part of the City's committed annual investment into pavement conditions across the City; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has continued a productive rate of sewer rehabilitation, installing 6,595 linear feet of new sewer lines in 2021, and has maintained the City's compliance with the USEPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) Sanitary Sewer Consent Decree through a combination of capital work and increased maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has completed several key standalone capital projects including ADA accessibility improvements to 48+ curb ramps on Lower Solano Avenue, with other projects including bicycle & pedestrian safety improvements on San Pablo Avenue, Solano Avenue, and Marin Avenue in progress; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department continues to maintain and enhance the City's natural resources by planting 184 trees in the City's urban forest in the Winter 2021-22 planting cycle, and continues the City's partnership with local community organization Urban Tilth to perform ongoing vegetation management and fire safety maintenance on Albany Hill and at Cerrito and Codornices Creeks, including invasive species removal and planting of native plants; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department added additional in-person programming at the Senior Center including Senior Nutrition Programs, classes and services while continuing to offer over 100 virtual programs. Senior Center staff and volunteers delivered 9,706 meals, served 624 in-person meals, provided 732 shopping trips and packaged and distributed 762 bags of groceries; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department continues to operate the Park Steward program in response to an increase in park usage during the pandemic and to assist in general maintenance at Albany parks and open spaces. The department processed 400 picnic reservations and accommodated 2,510 tennis court reservations at Jewel’s Terrace, Memorial, and Ocean View Parks; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department’s Albany CARES program provided services to 400 individuals, has recently launched a Community Grocery Program to assist lower income residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the program’s inception in February 2022, 65 bags of groceries and 147 bags of essential supplies have been provided; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department successfully offered safe and engaging after school programming for children every day during the school year and summer camps during the summer; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the Recreation & Community Services Department staffed 30+ public meetings including Commission, Committee, and several community meetings to support the preparation, outreach, and final adoption of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department also restarted in-person programming and currently offers over 100 programs for individuals of all ages. On April 30, 2022, the department hosted its first in-person community event since the beginning of the pandemic, the Albany Community Expo.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Albany City Council does hereby proclaim the week of May 1 – 7, 2022 as Public Service Recognition Week in the City of Albany, and expresses gratitude to the City of Albany’s dedicated employees for their ongoing commitment to serve our City.

Dated: May 2, 2022

PRESTON JORDAN, MAYOR

City of Albany Proclamation No. 2022-17