

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: May 2, 2022  
Reviewed by: NA

**SUBJECT:** Request from Social & Economic Justice Commission (SEJC)  
Regarding Aging in Place Recommendations

**REPORT BY:** Isabelle Leduc, Assistant City Manager/Recreation & Community  
Services Director

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**SUMMARY**

The Social & Economic Justice Commission has prepared a recommendation to Council on Aging in Place (Attachment 1). This staff report provides an overview of Senior Center programs currently offered weekly and during Older Americans Month. The Senior Center resumed in-person programming last July and programming has been steadily increasing while staff continues to follow pandemic recommendations from the CDC and Alameda County Health Department.

**SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council approve the following measures:

1. That Albany join the Network of Age Friendly Communities.
2. That Albany take account of the effect on seniors of changes in infrastructure related to access to outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, work and civic engagement, communication and information, community and health services.
3. That Council establish a senior advisory committee to work with staff on a livability assessment and to advise staff and Council members on issues related to senior friendly infrastructure and services.
4. That the City conduct a campaign during Older American's Month to acquaint people with the Senior Center.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council review the recommendation from the Social & Economic Justice Commission and provide feedback and direction.

## **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

The Albany Senior Center provides a comprehensive array of recreational programs and services to meet the needs of older adults in the community enhancing their quality of life and helping them to remain active, healthy and independent. Older adult residents enjoy socializing in a warm, friendly atmosphere while participating in the quality programs and services offered.

Pre-pandemic, the Albany Senior Center welcomed approximately 2,500 visitors monthly. Program surveys were regularly conducted to keep up with needs and interests of seniors in the community. While over 100 programs were offered mostly virtually during the pandemic to keep seniors connected and engaged, the Recreation & Community Services Department provided essential services to seniors in Albany, helping them connect to basic needs, social/human, and housing services. Staff also delivered meals, essential supplies and bags of groceries.

The Senior Center is now open to the public and offers an array of virtual and in person programs, socials and classes, a congregate lunch, special events, educational presentations, matinee movies, meals-on-wheels, information and referrals, subsidy on taxi rides, assistance with technology, shopping trips, hikes and walks, as well as day trips to resume this May.

Older Americans Month is always celebrated at the Senior Center with additional special events and programming that honor the contribution of older adults in the community and with attention to the U.S Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging campaign theme each year. This year's theme is "Age my Way!". All in person/virtual classes will be promoting the theme focusing on elder health and independence and a number of programs and events have been planned throughout the month of May with this year's theme in mind. There will be a Mother's Day lunch on May 5, Friends of Albany Seniors will be hosting a pancake breakfast fundraiser on May 21, there will be a Medicare presentation on May 24, and the Senior Center Travel Troupe is kicking off a new line up of day trips and hikes offered throughout the month.

Building awareness of older adults' contribution in the community as well as programs offered at the Senior Center is a priority. Outreach includes, but is not limited to, a proclamation in May for Older Americans Month which is usually presented to the Friends of Albany Seniors who work collaboratively with Senior Center staff and actively fundraise to support certain programs at the Senior Center. The Senior Center also publishes a monthly newsletter emailed to a list serv and available in hard copy at the Senior Center, advertises programs in the City's eNews, distributes flyers to other city facilities, meals-on wheels and Mercy Brown Bag recipients, and includes activities offered in the Recreation & Community Services Department Activity catalogue.

## **SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The Albany Senior Center aims to provide a wide array of services and programs that meet the needs of all seniors in the community.

## **CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES**

N/A

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

N/A

## **Attachments**

1. Social & Economic Justice Commission Aging in Place Recommendation Memo