



**SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

City Hall Council Chambers – 1000 San Pablo Avenue

May 2, 2017 – 7:30 PM

AGENDA

****WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE
COMMISSION****

Persons interested in submitting written correspondence on an item listed on the agenda are requested to submit the correspondence and any related materials no later than 12:00 PM on the date of the meeting. If correspondence is received after the deadline, the Social & Economic Justice Commission may not have time to review its content.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES:** April 4, 2017
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

For persons desiring to address the Commission/Committee/Board on an item that is not on the agenda. Please note that each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. The Chair may reduce the time limit per speaker depending on the number of speakers. The Brown Act limits the Commission's ability to take and/or discuss items that are not on the agenda; therefore, such items are normally referred to staff for comment or to a future agenda.

All persons wishing to speak on an item on the agenda are to fill out speaker cards and provide to the staff liaison. Comments related to items appearing on the agenda are taken up at the time the Commission deliberates each action item. The Chair will announce when the period for public comment is open on each agenda item.

- 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
- 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF**
- 6. PRESENTATION**
- 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7-1 Work Plan 2017-2019: Chair Grossman will provide an update on the presentation to Council May 1, 2017.

Staff Recommendation: Information only.

7-2 Community Resource Center: Chair Grossman will provide an update.

Staff Recommendation: Information only.

7-3 Rent Review Ordinance: Commission will review information provided.

Staff Recommendation: Information only.

7-4 Albany Project HOPE: Review of third quarter reports submitted by Berkeley Food and Housing Project.

Staff Recommendation: Receive information.

7-5 Application for Low Income Parcel Tax Exemption and Renter Rebate: Staff will provide an update.

Staff Recommendation: Receive information.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8-1 Promote Communitywide Inclusivity: The subcommittee will provide ideas on how to promote inclusivity including a Proclamation for Loving Day.

Staff Recommendation: Receive report from subcommittee. If Commission wants to move forward with a Proclamation for Loving Day, make a motion for a request to the City Council.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(Commission/Committee/Board Member announcement of requests for future agenda items. No public comment will be taken on announcement of future agenda items). **Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 6, 2017, 7:30pm, City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Ave.**

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission/Committee/Board agenda is available for public inspection at the Albany Community Center/Library, Senior Center and at City Hall. The agenda and supporting staff reports, when available, can be found on our web page at www.albanyca.org.

To view the live televised meetings, go to KALB Comcast channel 33, AT&T channel 99 or view in HD at youtube.com/AlbanyKALB. Please note that if you provide your name and address when speaking before the Commission it will become part of the official public record, which will be posted on the Internet and broadcast on KALB.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and State Law, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administration Office 510-528-5710. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102.104 ADA Title II)". Upon request, we will provide written agenda materials in appropriate alternate formats, of disability related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in public meetings. Please deliver a written request, including your name, mailing address, phone number and brief description of the requested materials and preferred alternative format or auxiliary aid or service at least two (2) days before the meeting. Request should be sent to: City Clerk, 1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA 94706.



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 7:30 PM

City Hall – Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Avenue

ACTION MINUTES

1. Call to Order: 7:33 PM. Members Present: Chair Grossman, Members Beall, Diehl and Baer.
Members Absent: Marx. Staff Present: Isabelle Leduc

2. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from March 7, 2017 as amended was made by Member Beall, and seconded by Member Baer.

AYES: Members Baer, Beall, Diehl and Grossman

NOES: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

3. Public Comments

4. Announcements from Commission Members

5. Announcement from Staff

6. Presentation

6-1 Albany Project HOPE – Robbi Montoya, Case Manager and Sharon Leyden, Director of Client Services at the Berkeley Food and Housing Project provided information on activities for Albany Project HOPE since July 1, 2016.

7. Unfinished Business

7-1 Work Plan 2017-2019: Commission finalized its 2017-2019 Work Plan in support of the Council Strategic Plan.

Motion: Motion to present the 2017-2019 SEJC Work Plan as amended to Council was made by Member Diehl and seconded by Member Grossman.

AYES: Members Baer, Beall, Diehl and Grossman

NOES: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

7-2 Resource Center: Chair Grossman provided an update.

8. New Business

8-1 Application for Low Income Parcel Tax Exemption and Renter Rebate – Staff provided data on applications received and information on future outreach efforts.

9. Future Agenda Items: Work Plan, Albany Project Hope, Resource Center, Soda Tax, Rent Review Ordinance Update, Tax Exemptions, Inclusivity

10. Adjournment: 9:43 PM



**CITY OF ALBANY
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION**

2017 - 2019 Work Plan

Approved by the Social and Economic Justice Commission: April 4, 2017

Approved by the City Council:

Background

The following work plan identifies recent accomplishments, and priority work items for the upcoming work plan period. The work plan includes items identified as priority projects within the City Council's Strategic Plan. The Social and Economic Justice Commission shall review the work plan each year in January to identify accomplishments and ensure continued focus on completing work plan items. Work plans are presented to the Council every two years, and if a change is needed to the work plan outside of that schedule, the Social and Economic Justice Commission shall submit a "Request for Amendment to Advisory Body Work Plan" Form for review by the City Council.

Social and Economic Justice Commission Purpose

The charge of this Commission is to research, analyze, discuss and evaluate a broad range of data and opinions on social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of the residents of Albany as inhabitants of both a local and a global community, and make recommendations to the City Council on positions and/or actions to take to address these issues.

Recommendations to the City Council shall state the relevance, important and/or particular impact that the issue has on the welfare of the residents of Albany.

Recent Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Analyzed the "soda tax" and made a presentation to the City Council
- Provided a report on Minimum Wage to the City Council
- Researched the feasibility of a Rent Review Program and made a presentation to Council
- Presentation to the City Council for a one-year Community Resource Center Pilot Program
- Increase to monthly meetings resulted in great increase in productivity including moving projects forward that had been on the work plan such as the community resource center and rent review

2017-2019 Policy Review and Initiatives

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1 - Foster a Healthy and Sustainable Urban Village

Objective 1.2 Promote Housing Availability

B. Conduct housing outreach and referrals for people experiencing homelessness

- 1) Review and evaluate Albany Project HOPE based on performance measures included in quarterly reports provided by BFHP and the annual presentation by BFHP staff/Project HOPE Case Manager.
- 2) Review of progress towards Housing Element policies with Community Development Staff once per year

C. Develop rent review ordinance

- 1) Review Rent Review program draft ordinance when requested by Community Development staff

Objective 1.5 Promote Health and Wellness

B. Create health and wellness programs in coordination with community input regarding use of Soda Tax revenues

- 1) Provide a recommendation to the Council on health and wellness programs to be developed with soda tax revenue where the matter will be discussed (Council meeting/Community workshop)

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2 - Engage Our Diverse Community

Objective 2.1 Connect With and Engage the Community

A. Conduct outreach and service referrals to low-income residents, seniors and people experiencing homelessness

- 1) Provide input on outreach efforts regarding information on low income/senior tax exemptions
- 2) Implement and evaluate Resource Center Pilot Program

Objective 2.2 Continue to Promote Communitywide Inclusivity

- 1) Identify outreach strategies and programs to support inclusivity such as ESL, antiracism programs
- 2) Identification and outreach to unserved and underserved communities
- 3) Investigate service gaps for seniors to age in place

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 5 - Facilitate Government Accountability

Objective 5.3 Identify Funding Mechanism to Ensure Stable and Effective Budget

- 1) Provide feedback on future draft policy to include evaluation of options for low income exemptions as part of future tax measures and franchise agreements for review by the Council

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

Agenda Date: December 5, 2016
Reviewed by: PC

SUBJECT: Next Steps associated with Implementation of a Rent Review Program

REPORT BY: Jeff Bond, Community Development Director

SUMMARY

The action before the City Council is to review the outcome of November 16, 2016 public workshop and provide direction to staff on the next steps associated with preparation of an ordinance to implement a Rent Review Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council provide direction to staff on next steps associated with implementation of a rent review program.

BACKGROUND

On October 3, 2016, the City Council received a presentation by the Social & Economic Justice Commission regarding the feasibility of a rent review board and a rent moratorium proposal. The Council agreed to set aside consideration of a rent moratorium at this time and focus on options for expanding a rent review process for tenants and landlords. The Council directed staff to conduct additional research regarding the establishment of a rent review board with non-binding arbitration, including development of a draft ordinance for review by the Council at a future meeting as soon as possible.

On November 16, 2016, the City staff facilitated a public workshop on policy questions associated with a rent review program. Photographs of boards are attached. It appears that a majority of the workshop participants represented the landlord perspective on the issues. In addition to the workshop itself, an on-line survey tool was used to garner input. A broader range of perspectives were received landlords, tenants, and people that that are neither or preferred not to state. In summary, the feedback from the workshop and on-line survey indicates the following areas of general consensus of tenants and landlords:

- General consensus that rent review should cover all types of rental units;
- Trigger for rent review should be rent increases of 10%;

- There was no clear consensus from workshop participants about the number of days to file a request for rent review, but a majority of on-line respondents preferred 30 days;
- Landlords prefer rent review conducted by professional mediator. Tenants are split between professional mediator and a citizen's committee
- There should be protections for both landlords and tenants. It should be noted, however, that there are different views about specific categories of tenant protections and significant differences in responses of workshop participants and on-line responses (perhaps due to wording of questions presented). Additional community dialogue on this area could be valuable.

DISCUSSION

Based on previous Council direction, staff is continuing to move forward with the preparation of an ordinance to implement a rent review board with non-binding mediation. As a next step towards implementation, staff proposes to release a request for proposals to non-profit and professional mediation-related organizations and individuals to provide support services to tenants and landlords and/or to serve as the mediator. Based on the responses, a detailed implementation program can be developed and a corresponding City ordinance can be prepared.

Members of the City Council have received a detailed proposal from the Albany Property Rights Advocates proposing an increase in business license fees on rental housing in order to fund a rental subsidy program. Creating of a rental subsidy program deserves City Council consideration. The proposed business license tax source of funding, however, requires voter approval (2/3 vote), and thus could not be implemented until 2019 at the earliest. Staff proposes to meet with APRA to further discuss funding proposals.

Staff also proposes to continue with public outreach on rent review policy issues.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Preparation of draft ordinance can be implemented using existing approved staff and budget resources. No outside consultants are proposed to be used at this time.

LANDLORD PROTECTIONS – PART 1

		Yes	No	Other
<p>FAILURE TO PAY RENT ON A TIMELY BASIS</p> <p>Place dots here →</p>	<p><i>Unit not subject to rent review if tenant fails to pay rent on a timely basis</i></p>			<p>Put stickies here</p>
<p>UNAUTHORIZED SUB-LEASING OF UNIT</p> <p>Place dots here →</p>	<p><i>Unit not subject to rent review if unauthorized sub-lease of unit</i></p>			<p>Put stickies here</p>
<p>UNLAWFUL OR NUISANCE ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Place dots here →</p>	<p><i>Unit not subject to rent review if tenant conducts unlawful or nuisance activities that affect nearby residents</i></p>			<p>Put stickies here</p>

LANDLORD PROTECTIONS – PART 2

		Yes	No	er
<p>SUBSTANTIVE BREACH OF RENTAL AGREEMENT BY TENANT</p> <p>Place dots here →</p>	<p><i>Unit not subject to rent review if landlord can document other violations of a written agreement</i></p>			<p>Put stickies here</p>
<p>SUBSTANTIAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT REQUIRED FOR HEALTH & SAFETY OF OCCUPANT</p>	<p><i>Unit not subject to rent review if unit requires substantial upgrade for energy efficiency, seismic upgrade or due to normal wear and tear</i></p>			<p>Put stickies here</p>


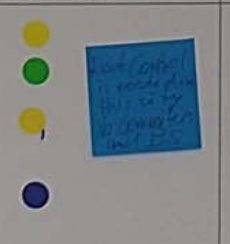

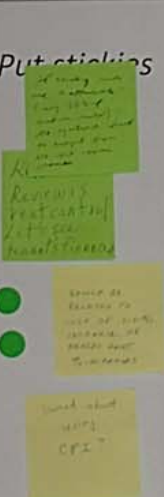
TENANT PROTECTIONS – PART 1

		Yes	No	Other
UNSAFE CONDITIONS Failure to perform repairs & maintenance required for occupant safety Place dots here →	<i>Failure to perform repairs & maintenance required for occupant safety</i>			Put stickies here
UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS Landlord harassment of tenant such as not following state law requirements regarding access to unit Place dots here →	<i>Landlord harassment of tenant such as not following state law requirements regarding access to unit</i>			Put stickies here
CONTINUATION OF LANDLORD SERVICES AND COSTS Nullify rent increases if landlord reduces services or increases tenant costs within 60 days of tenant application for rent review Place dots here →	<i>Nullify rent increases if landlord reduces services or increases tenant costs within 60 days of tenant application for rent review</i>			Put stickies here

TENANT PROTECTIONS – PART 2

		Yes	No	Other
<p>REQUIRE NEW LEASES TO CONTAIN REASONABLE TERMS</p> <p>Place dots here →</p>	<p><i>Prohibit unreasonable change in lease terms following expiration of existing lease</i></p>			<p>Other</p> <p><i>Does lease apply to all units?</i></p> <p><i>Not in records for subject</i></p> <p><i>Standard for reasonable lease terms and subject to priority.</i></p> <p><i>Not in records?</i></p> <p><i>Just case selection must be addressed. Otherwise will be inconsistent.</i></p>
<p>REQUIRE RELOCATION PAYMENTS</p> <p>Place dots here →</p>	<p><i>Require relocation payments if landlord terminates lease for family move-in or withdrawal of unit from market</i></p>			<p>Put stickies here</p> <p><i>This should be treated when it ends.</i></p>
<p>LACK OF NOTICE OF RENT REVIEW</p> <p>Place dots here →</p>	<p><i>Nullify rent increases if landlord fails to provide notice of city requirements.</i></p>	<p><i>Not in records</i></p>		<p>Put stickies here</p> <p><i>City will be fine if landlord is not in records.</i></p> <p><i>This means don't require priority on rent review if not in records.</i></p> <p><i>Landlord should be held to the law. It is not just to include it in the lease but to ensure it is enforced with the city. To get more information on how to enforce this law.</i></p>

WHAT SHOULD BE THE TRIGGER FOR RENT REVIEW?

	5% INCREASE	7.5% INCREASE	10% INCREASE	OTHER
EQUIVALENT \$ AMOUNT	\$50 FOR EVERY \$1,000 IN RENT	\$75 FOR EVERY \$1,000 IN RENT	\$100 FOR EVERY \$1,000 IN RENT	
Place dots here →				<i>Put stickies here</i> 

TYPES OF UNITS COVERED BY RENT REVIEW?

	APARTMENTS ONLY	APARTMENTS & ACCESSORY UNITS	APARTMENTS, ACCESSORY UNITS & SINGLE FAMILY HOMES	OTHER
Place dots here →				<i>Put stickies here</i> 

Albany Project HOPE
Homeless Outreach and Engagement Program
Berkeley Food and Housing Project Narrative
Report to City Council
Jan-March, 2017

Activities to Date

The Albany Homeless Outreach and Engagement Program, along with its full time Case Manager has continued to do outreach as well as work closely with housed clients to provide various levels of case management

On average, CM will spend 10-16 hours a week out in the field, speaking to potential clients for the first time or touching base with a person where contact has already been made with positive outcomes. Many referrals have been made, resulting in a higher quality of life for individuals living on the street.

In any one week time, CM may get 3-5 "leads" from Albany PD, other public organizations and private citizens/business owners about people spotted in need on the street. CM makes every attempt to reach out to that person immediately to establish contact as the street population tends to change camps frequently. This has had a direct result in the housing of one individual with a history of long term homelessness and two others in the final stages of the housing process.

CM has done research for the individual needs of current clients such as identifying bus routes, food pantries, clothing donation sites, and free computers for housing research, libraries, and referral agencies.

CM spends 5 hours per week keeping client files updated with accurate and detailed notes and information as required by the grant contract.

For the housed clients at the temporary shared housing facility in Oakland, CM continues to provide assistance in permanent housing search, filing out applications and getting on all housing lists. CM has been able to provide support to them and other Albany residents with transportation to DMV, the hospital and Albany showers. Case Manager stays in constant contact with their landlord with weekly "check-ins" with positive and problem free results.

CM makes 1 to 2 home visits weekly (1-2 hours per household) to ensure good housekeeping and to offer any assistance in reaching program goals, managing disputes, ensuring timely rent payments and that all housing needs are met. CM spends approximately 6-8 hours driving clients to essential agency appointments where application assistance may be needed.

CM may spend an entire day gathering essential donations set up throughout the week such as blankets, toiletries, food from food sites, making referrals to legal organizations (HAC), and providing for other essential needs, while furthering the conversation about housing opportunities. Only a small handful are interested in longer term assistance but CM continues to call them periodically to “check-in” and see if they are ready for longer term help.

This quarter CM had some interaction with business owners in Albany who had contact with “sleepers” and/or individual who were regularly hanging around their businesses. One of these meetings led to the housing of a 29 year old man who had been homeless in Albany for almost a year.

This quarter CM provided outreach to approximately 48 potential participants. Many were not interested in further discussion including about 18 “travelers” who did not identify with the city. About 15 individuals had had conversations with the CM before. Of those, three led to further conversations for housing services and are in various stages of that process.

PLEASE NOTE: Case Manager still finds that these outreach numbers include contacts with people who wouldn't identify as either homeless in Berkeley or Albany. Some have said Albany and been located in Albany one week but Berkeley “side” the next. In most of these cases, individuals are more interested in donated items and services than in housing assistance.

Successes this Quarter

Project HOPE has successfully permanently housed a client who had been homeless the longest. With CM assistance, he applied for a property-based section 8 subsidy and was chosen through a lottery system. This means that the client will no longer have to worry about becoming homeless again as long as he remains in his new 1 bedroom apartment. CM was able obtain new furnishings for the client by accessing the Seasons of Sharing program and other charitable organizations. Client's new apartment is a considerable distance from the office, so CM stays in contact mainly through e-mail and phone conversations. One in-person follow up meeting has taken place since his move in mid Feb.2017, a full year from the time he entered into the Project HOPE program.

Another 29 year old man, TC, was housed in March after being homeless in Albany for nearly a year. CM accompanied the client to the Social Service Agency to obtain financial and food assistance. CM also was able to obtain a bed and other essential items for the client. CM will closely monitor the client's progress in accessing other social services.

Another client—JE--completed program successfully. He received SSI and moved into his own apartment. JE began the program with a full rental subsidy and within a year moved toward full rental self-sufficiency.

Our client who has been in the program the longest, has finally received his SSI award and is currently becoming able to pay his own rent. He has battled with drug addiction and Project HOPE continues to provide supportive services to him.

Challenges this Quarter

Lack of affordable housing in the current market continues to be a problem. Landlords are reluctant to rent to clients with subsidies and our client base brings with them questionable credit reports and poor tenant histories. We continue to search for shared housing opportunities that will fit limited budgets. Although shared housing can help to address the challenge of high rents, it makes housemate matching challenging as some of our clients have physical and/or mental health issues that makes co habituating sometimes a long and thoughtful process. Locating other available subsidy options is a further challenge, because they are scarce.

Albany Project HOPE
Homeless Outreach and Engagement Program
Berkeley Food and Housing Project Narrative
Report to City Council
Jan-March, 2017

Activities to Date

HS (Housing Specialist) assisted P.H. moved to his new permanent dwelling in Firebaugh, CA. HS delivered client's newly purchased home furnishing, and aided in its setup. HS facilitated the housing of T.C. into a shared housing. HS was able to locate housing for J.S. however, J.S. refused this traditional housing and instead choose to reunify with family where he is now permanently housed.

HS facilitated meetings with R.P. and J.S. to complete applications for affordable, disabled, senior and property based section 8 housings. HS completed housing navigation face sheets for J.S. and T.C. HS created and maintains folders containing all documentation and case notes as it relates to clients.

HS spends 10 to 12 hours a week searching various sites for housing opportunities. Four to six hours a week are used for the viewing of rental properties. Two to four hours are utilized to assist clients in completing rental applications and face sheets.

Challenges this Quarter

The shortage of housing within the financial means of Albany clients are ever present. The third party rental assistance is also a barrier for landlords. This is further complicated by the landlord's requirements of minimum yearly income for the applicant. Oftentimes this income requirement cannot be satisfied by Albany applicants. Although shared housing can help to address the challenge of high rents, housemate matching can be challenging as some of our clients have physical and/or mental health issues that makes co habituating sometimes a long and thoughtful process. Locating other available subsidy options is a further challenge, because they are scarce.

ATTACHMENT

BFHP Albany PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Due on the 15th of each month following the quarter

Project Performance Measures and Targets				
Performance Measure	Target	Progress/Activity this period	Year to date statistics	Comments
Outreach contacts (unduplicated contact with a new client)	20	15	83	
Performed initial intake/enrollment	10	5	22	
Number of housing case plans performed	17	8	23	
New Clients Housed	10	2	5	
Clients maintaining housing for 6 months	17	5	5	
*Clients maintaining housing for a year	13	9	3	
Clients exited from Aftercare program	7	1	3	

Commented [LT1]: Update this column after activity this period is entered

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*This measure duplicates clients in the measure above

REPORT FROM INCLUSIVITY SUBCOMMITTEE
SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION

May 2, 2017

As I am sure you are aware, recent incidents at Albany High have pushed the issue of inclusion even further into the spotlight. Tara and I reached out to our perspective communities for comment on inclusion. And found the following ideas:

- 1) Loving Day Proclamation has been previously discussed. We feel this would be an important and timely step, as the date is about 45 days away.
- 2) Promoting Bilingual Education and in Albany Schools, making EASL classes available, and city literature in other languages would make immigrants feel more welcome. To be expanded in subsequent months.
- 3) Albany Cross has been mentioned as an issue that makes citizens of other faiths feel unwelcome.
- 4) Lack of Affordable housing has been raised as a contributing factor.

The primary recommendation of the subcommittee is to vote on and approve the following Loving Day Proclamation for submission to City Council. In a uniquely Albanian gesture, we further suggest circulation via online and printed document at City Hall to request all Citizens of Albany to sign the declaration, to reaffirm our commitment as a community to inclusion.

Proclamation Declaring June 12, 2017 as “Loving Day”

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve a proclamation declaring June 12, 2017 as “Loving Day” in the City of Albany and authorize the Mayor to send letters of support to federal and state elected officials urging the recognition of Loving Day.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS: At the April 2017 meeting of the City’s Social and Economic Justice Commission, it was determined that promoting Inclusion in the community is currently one of the commissions top priorities, and a subcommittee was formed to study the topic. Recent national and local trends and incidents have led to great uncertainty and fear among various ethnic and religious groups. The subcommittee has determined that promoting “Loving Day” for the first time on June 12, 2017 would be an important gesture in this area. Accepting interracial marriage is the ultimate way to express inclusion of all races. Furthermore, this particular Loving Day is the 50’t Anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision, making it all the more important to recognize.

Loving Day is a movement that began in 2004 by then-graduate student Ken Tanabe in New York to recognize the day that the United States Supreme Court issued its landmark ruling in Loving v Virginia (1967) that outlawed interracial marriage in the United States. Mildred and Richard Loving, an interracial couple, were married in 1958 in Washington, DC because it was

illegal for them to marry in their home state of Virginia. When they tried to return home to live permanently, they were arrested, convicted, and threatened with jail time unless they left the state. The Lovings decided to fight this ruling, eventually winning in a unanimous decision by the U.S. Supreme Court after nine years of appeals. This ruling is considered one of the most notable civil rights decisions in U.S. history. Loving Day has grown into a celebration of multicultural community, and provides an annual opportunity for people to learn history's lessons while envisioning ways to improve the future. More information on Loving Day can be found at www.lovingday.org. To that end, the SEJC requests that in considering this proclamation, that the Mayor be authorized to send letters to Federal and State elected officials informing them of the City's action.

The intent of the letter is to encourage more cities, the State of California, and the Federal Government to celebrate Loving Day as a day of recognition for civil rights, multicultural communities, and bringing people together of different races, cultures, nationalities, and religious beliefs. Agenda Item No., S(C)

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS Adoption of the proposed proclamation would help promote the cause of Inclusion in the Albany Community.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY PROCLAMATION

Recognizing June 12, 2017 as Loving Day in the City of Albany

WHEREAS, Mildred and Richard Loving were arrested in 1958 for violating Virginia's felony law prohibiting interracial marriage; and

WHEREAS, the Loving family was convicted of violating the law and given a suspended sentence provided that they did not return to their home in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a couple for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the Loving family did not back down but took their case to the United States Supreme Court and won, overturning their conviction and creating a landmark civil rights victory; and

WHEREAS, their case Loving v Virginia (1967) ended all laws prohibiting interracial marriage nationwide, paving the way for all consenting adults to marry the one they love; and

WHEREAS, an annual celebration known as Loving Day is held on June 12 in communities throughout the nation to commemorate and celebrate the anniversary of the 1967 Supreme Court decision; and

WHEREAS, our country, state and region are moving forward in the 21st Century as a multiracial and multicultural society; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany joins other communities to find a common vision from our interwoven past to build a society free of racism for the benefit of our collective future.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the Albany does hereby declare June 12, 2017 as Loving Day in the City of Albany, and invites everyone to recognize this day as a celebration of multiculturalism, and to reflect on the Loving family and all of the pioneers who have and will continue to fight for the civil right to love.

Dated: _____ Mark Peggy McQuaid, Mayor of Albany

