

City of Albany
Proclamation

Designating December 3, 2017 as Sweet Iris Day

WHEREAS, GM1 Gangliosidosis is an inherited disorder that progressively destroys nerve cells (neurons) in the brain and spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, GM1 Gangliosidosis is an extremely rare condition with no treatment or cure as yet that is estimated to occur in 1 in 100,000 to 200,000 newborns; and

WHEREAS, there is exciting, ongoing research on cures for GM1 taking place, including cutting edge gene therapy research at UMass Medical School and at Auburn University in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, nine year old Iris Dooley and her parents Christine Waggoner and Doug Dooley and younger brother Carter live in the City of Albany; and

WHEREAS, Iris was diagnosed with GM1 at age 5 and currently attends Cornell Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Iris' parents have led a nationwide effort to raise awareness and research funds to find cures for GM1 and have raised nearly \$2 Million dollars; and

WHEREAS, sweetiris.org is a website where the public can learn more about children like Iris and can donate in support of this rare fatal condition; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Make a Wish is to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy; and

WHEREAS, Albany resident Janna Katz has been a Make-a-Wish volunteer for 3 years and has helped to grant wishes to Iris and 3 other Albany children; and

WHEREAS, the Albany community has rallied around Iris and her family to help her celebrate today with donations of goods, including decorations and time; and

WHEREAS, volunteers are helping make today extra special by performing for Iris including HULA ukulele, Albany High School Chorus, and a princess from the West Coast Avengers; and

WHEREAS, Albany aspires to be a community that cares for all and honor those making a difference; and

WHEREAS, Make-A-Wish Greater Bay Area is hereby granting Iris' wish to go to Disneyworld with her family on December 10th, 2017

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City of Albany recognizes December 3rd, 2017 as *Sweet Iris Day* and GM1 Gangliodisis Awareness Day in honor of Iris' Make a Wish celebration of her trip to Disneyworld.


Peggy McQuaid, Mayor