

# ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY  
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## MAYOR'S STATEMENT CELEBRATING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S BIRTHDAY

Today we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We honor his courage, leadership and ability to speak the truth in a way that inspired so many.

The King Center in Atlanta recognizes that between December, 1955 (Montgomery Bus Boycott) and April 4, 1968 (his assassination), while Dr. King was the leader of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, African Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality in America than during the previous 350 years. Dr. King is widely regarded as America's pre-eminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history.

Now 50 years later our country feels divided and hate filled. Our national leaders continue to fuel the fires of distrust and fear through their vulgar and racist rhetoric and actions.

Dr. King once said, "he who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it."

There is no better way to honor Dr. King than to stand up to those who would divide us; to educate those whose fears are driven by ignorance; and to reassure those who are afraid. We do this both individually and as a community.

I am proud of the many ways Albany stands up against evil. We are a Sanctuary City; in September, the City Council passed Resolution #2017-74, supporting the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA); our business community has filled their windows with a variety of signs proclaiming all are welcome, including the Albany Stands UNITED Against Hate signs provided by the city. We have put into place programs and policies to assist those

who are most vulnerable. Community members came together challenging both the city and the school district to do better, to really listen to each other and to recognize and improve upon our shortcomings.

For the 9<sup>th</sup> year, the City of Albany is hosting Commit to Serve Week January 8 - 16. Visit the Community Center foyer for resources, contacts and ideas to assist in making a pledge of service to your community. Take this opportunity to become a Block Captain, a CERT volunteer, volunteer at your child's school, or help an elderly neighbor with yard work.

Together we can make a difference in our community! Together we can positively answer life's most persistent and urgent question asked by Dr. King, "What are you doing for others?" The opportunities are limitless for making a difference in someone's life, spreading kindness, and standing against injustice by following the example set by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.