

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE ON POLICING Introduction Letter

Dear Albany Community Members:

In light of current national events and our local response, we want to assure the Albany community that we hear you and are responding. We are moving intentionally, strategically and thoughtfully and although we recognize that work must be done with a sense of urgency, we want to ensure that we do this work correctly and respectfully for all residents, employees, and members of the City of Albany.

We have all been meeting in full City Council, as a Commission and in smaller working groups over the last several months to deepen our own understanding and knowledge of issues related to African Americans, people of color and other impacted groups as it relates to our history and that of the current structure of our police system. We are all working to understand the layers of challenges addressing an issue of this magnitude presents and are committed to entering this journey together. We have to come together to fully understand all parts of this issue in our community and work together towards systemic solutions. We want to ensure that the City of Albany is a great home for all residents and that everyone has an opportunity to be a part of this solutions based process to continue to improve our community.

The Albany City Council collectively decided to develop a Community Task Force on Policing to conduct research, collect data, and identify recommended strategies for the City Council to consider in addressing racial disparities and social justice issues around policing in the community.

We are reaching out to you, our collective Albany Community, regarding your interest in providing your unique perspective on this important issue. We aim to accommodate approximately 12 people representing various sectors of our community. In the event that we will have to cap attendees, we will be prioritizing Black, Indigenous and other people of color. We want to ensure that the experiences of all Albany residents are consistently considered respectfully and represent the values, morals and integrity of our amazing community.

It is important to us that we are transparent about everything we do in the City of Albany. As such, there are two clarification documents being provided in addition to the **INTEREST SURVEY**. The first is the **DESCRIPTION AND COMMITMENT** document that outlines the purpose, charge and goals of the group and the other outlines the **SELECTION PROCESS** that will be followed by City Council to choose and appoint the members of this unique team of residents.

If you are interested, please submit your **INTEREST SURVEY** online or by mail to City of Albany, 1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany CA 94706. If you have any challenges with submission, please contact the City Clerk at: cityclerk@albanymca.org or (510) 528-5710.

We thank you for your participation in our community and encourage you to sign up for eNotify to receive updates on the progress of this work by visiting our website at www.albanymca.org/enotify (check the "social equity & inclusion box"). We will also be posting updates to our website on the progress of this exciting, yet challenging collaborative work to create a more unified, empathetic and safe community.

Sincerely,

City of Albany City Council, City of Albany Social & Economic Justice Commission Chair Greg Downs, City of Albany Social & Economic Justice Commission Vice Chair Ge'Nell Gary, Police Chief John Geissberger, City Manager Nicole Almaguer