

City of Albany

Proclamation

IN HONOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK MAY 2 – 8, 2021

WHEREAS, Public Service Recognition Week is celebrated the first full week in May nationwide, and is a time set aside to honor those who serve our nation as federal, state, county, and local government employees; and

WHEREAS, our community is served every day by City of Albany staff including the City's Administration Department, City Clerk Office, Community Development Department, Finance Department, Fire Department, Human Resources Department, Police Department, Public Works Department, and Recreation & Community Services Department, and

WHEREAS, the public servants of the City of Albany have demonstrated commitment and dedication throughout the global pandemic, quickly shifting to providing essential services both virtually and by appointment to continue to serve our community; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Department provides critical public information, promoting City programs and services through City mailers, flyers, posters, banners, the City website and to over 6,000 subscribers to the City's eNews, over 1,100 subscribers to the local business eNews, over 3,000 subscribers to Recreation & Senior eNews, more than 6,000 Facebook followers, over 1,300 Instagram followers, 924 Twitter followers, has 688 YouTube subscribers, 7,767 residents registered on Nextdoor; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Department includes the City's KALB Channel 33 services, providing continuous stream and broadcasting of community media/meetings and the channel has had 34,026 YouTube views and provided 8,743 hrs. of YouTube watch time in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Department with the Office of the City Clerk conducted all City public meetings virtually during the pandemic providing appointed/elected officials, staff, and public a readily accessible way to participate and engage in local government; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the City Clerk is the oldest among public servants, and in 2020, the Office processed 14 Ordinances (including Urgency Ordinances), 128 Resolutions, 23 Proclamations, 30+ submitted bids and proposals, over 100 public records requests, and more than 300 City Council Agenda items; and

WHEREAS, the IT (Information Technology) Division in response to the pandemic implemented VPN (Virtual Private Network) access and remote support for employees to be able to work remotely to ensure the safety of staff and public; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the Community Development Department staffed 34 Commission and Committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Community Development Department’s Planning & Building Division processed 68 planning applications, 160 encroachment permits, 640 building permits, over 1,750 inspections for building and public right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Department’s Transportation Division is actively involved in the planning and design of transportation safety improvement projects including improving pedestrian visibility at intersections, bicycle facility signage and striping, the San Pablo Avenue Complete Streets project, and safety improvements for the Ohlone Greenway crossings at Solano and Marin; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Department’s Sustainability Division leads environmental programs and outreach, and in 2020 the Division began implementation of the new Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, including hosting a Recycling 101 workshop, adopting green building measures for new construction and remodels, and engaging the community in a six-month Carbon-Free Albany challenge; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department issued 2,866 payments to 1,023 individuals and organizations in fiscal year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department issued 1,863 business licenses in calendar year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Fire Department maintained an average median response time for all medical calls of 3.18 minutes and; Fire suppression units outperformed the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) response standard of 9 minutes and 20 seconds 90% of the time; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Fire Department educated school aged children in fire prevention and safety in 2020 through a virtual program format; and performed Fire Code Life Safety Inspections for all multifamily housing, schools, and businesses within Albany; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Fire Department deployed to major wildfires at the LNU Lightning Complex, Creek Fire and Glass Fire; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Fire Department continues the City’s Disaster Preparedness/Emergency management efforts and works in coordination with other City Departments to further the City’s abilities to respond in the event of a disaster; specifically in 2020 managed the City of Albany Emergency Operations Center during the COVID pandemic and assisted with a Mass Vaccination site at Golden Gate Fields; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department strives to provide a safe, healthy and positive working environment for City of Albany employees; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department provides services to former City of Albany employees, current City of Albany employees, potential new employees through the recruitment and selection process, and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department quickly developed several new internal procedures for safe and effective continuance of all essential functions in response to the global pandemic including virtual onboarding, interviews, and meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department received more than 600 applications for employment and filled over 15 vacancies in 2020; and

WHEREAS, despite the Global Pandemic the Albany Police Department continued to provide a high level of service to the community: and

WHEREAS, due to the Global Pandemic the Police Department adjusted operations and began taking police reports on FaceTime so citizens could continue to engage directly with officers; and

WHEREAS, continuing our commitment to community safety, the Police Department established a voluntary video camera registration program; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Police Department conducted over 2,000 business/building checks in 2020 to ensure both opened and closed businesses were kept safe; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Police Department dispatch center handled over 32,000 incidents in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department operates and maintains the City's buildings, parks, open spaces, sidewalks, urban forest, roadways and infrastructure systems and in 2020, Albany maintenance staff completed more than 2,000 work orders to respond to City maintenance needs, including but not limited to cleaning and inspecting sewer and storm drain lines, removing vegetation hazards in the public right-of-way, performing repairs at City buildings, and responding to urgent after-hours calls; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, in the unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic, the Public Works Department partnered with Human Resources to develop procedures and practices for safe City operations, procured and safely distributed cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment for City staff, continued to provide necessary services to the community, and monitored and managed closures and reopening of City facilities including City parks in response to changing County and State guidance; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Public Works Department completed the third round of sidewalk repairs under the City's Sidewalk Repair Program, funded by the local Measure P1 Sidewalk Parcel Tax, with rehabilitation work spanning a total of 48 locations and 6,500 square feet of sidewalk; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department actively administers the City's Pavement Management Plan, and invests an average of \$1.9 million annually in the CIP into pavement rehabilitation and repair in order to improve pavement condition across the City; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has increased the rate of sewer rehabilitation, installing a record 11,385 linear feet of new sewer lines in 2020, and has brought the City of Albany into compliance with the USEPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) Sanitary Sewer Consent Decree through a combination of capital work and increased maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has completed several key capital projects including improvements to ADA (American Disability Act) access and trail facilities on Albany Hill, traffic calming measures on Washington Avenue, and rectangular rapid flashing beacons for pedestrian safety on Marin Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has enhanced the City's natural resources by planting more than 120 trees in the City's urban forest, and by implementing a program of vegetation management on Albany Hill and at Cerrito and Codornices Creeks, consisting of invasive species removal and planting of native plants; and

WHEREAS, throughout the pandemic, the Recreation & Community Services Department shifted to providing essential services by delivering meals, grocery bags, and essential items to seniors in their homes, serving 10,5301 seniors and delivering 13,104 meals and 659 bags of groceries and 280 essential items-in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department shifted to providing over 100 virtual programs to help seniors sheltering in place stay connected to one another by engaging them in programs in the areas of education, enrichment, health, creative arts and most importantly socialization through using the Zoom Virtual Platform; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department created the Park Steward program in response to an increase in park usage during COVID-19 and to assist in general maintenance at Albany parks and open spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department Albany Cares program has provided services to 323 individuals and worked in partnership with Berkeley Food & Housing Project to provide temporary shelter to 28 individuals experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department successfully offered safe and engaging summer and afterschool programming, ensuring the welfare of 79 children while adhering to State and County Health guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albany City Council does hereby proclaim the week of May 2 – 8, 2021 as Public Service Recognition Week in the City of Albany, and expresses gratitude to the City of Albany's dedicated employees for their ongoing commitment to serve our City.

Date: May 3, 2021



GE'NELL GARY, MAYOR