

# *City of Albany*

## *Proclamation*

IN RECOGNITION OF LOVING DAY – JUNE 12, 2021

**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 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 through many levels of the justice system where their appeal was denied every time. Eventually their case was argued before the Supreme Court of the United States, where their victory created a landmark civil rights victory; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Justice Earl Warren delivered the opinion, writing that anti-miscegenation laws "deprive the Lovings of liberty" and that the "freedom to marry has long been recognized as one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness"; and

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

**WHEREAS**, an annual celebration known as Loving Day, begun by Ken Tanabe in 2004, 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 an antiracist society for the benefit of our collective future.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Albany City Council does hereby declare June 12, 2021 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.

Date: June 7, 2021

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GE'NELL GARY, MBA - MAYOR