

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

September 20, 2021

The Honorable Vice President Kamala Harris
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Letter of Support

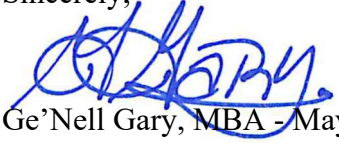
Dear Vice President Harris:

The City of Albany, located in the East Bay region, strongly supports United States Representative Mark DeSaulnier’s request of \$10 million for the National Park Service and East Bay Regional Park District to establish a joint visitor use facility located in Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50 at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. We urge the House, Senate and Administration to support the request by Rep. DeSaulnier in the Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 in the National Park Service Construction Program.

The people of our city share in the spirit of the recent 77th anniversary commemoration of the munitions explosion at Port Chicago Naval Magazine. It is important that the young people of our region learn the history of this nationally significant tragedy, the ensuing mutiny, and the controversial trial that stirred the conscience of Americans with respect to the treatment of African Americans in the United States military. As Thurgood Marshall, Jr. has written, “the 1948 decision of President Harry Truman to issue an Executive Order desegregating the military had roots in the controversy over the mutiny convictions.”

The construction of a visitor center in Concord will provide a public space for discussions about the contributions of African Americans to the Allied victory in World War II, the evolution of racial justice efforts following the war to the present day, and the important role that Port Chicago played in that historic. We are optimistic it will be a national destination to share the historic developments at the Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50. We stand at the ready to assist in demonstrating community support and enthusiasm for continued progress on this collaborative effort.

Sincerely,



Ge'Nell Gary, MBA - Mayor
City of Albany

CC: The Honorable United States Senator Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable United States Senator Alex Padilla
The Honorable United States Representative Mark DeSaulnier
The Honorable United States Representative Barbara Lee
Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland