

City of Albany

Proclamation

IN HONOR OF THE 63rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN NATIONAL UPRISING

WHEREAS, On March 10, 2022, Californians, including Tibetan Americans residing in Albany and surrounding regions, will gather to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising against Chinese invasion and occupation of Tibet; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany has a diverse ethnic population, including Tibetan Americans, who are concerned about human rights and freedom in the United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2007, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his many enduring and outstanding contributions to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and religious understanding; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a long history of support to the Tibetan people, including the passage of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (subtitle B of title VI of Public Law 107–228; 22 U.S.C. 6901 note), signed into law on September 30, 2002, which encapsulates policy and programmatic initiatives and supports the aspirations of the Tibetan people to safeguard their distinct identity; and

WHEREAS, The State Department’s 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices reported about the situation in Tibet: “The significant human rights issues included: torture and cases of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment by the government; arbitrary arrest or detention; political prisoners; politically motivated reprisal against individuals located outside the country; serious problems with the independence of the judiciary; arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy; serious restrictions on free expression, the press, and the internet, including censorship and site blocking; substantial interference with the freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association; severe restrictions on religious freedom, despite nominal constitutional protections voided by regulations restricting religious freedom and effectively placing Tibetan Buddhism under central government control; severe restrictions on freedom of movement; the inability of citizens to change their government peacefully through free and fair elections; restrictions on political participation; serious acts of corruption; coerced abortion or forced sterilization; and violence or threats of violence targeting indigenous persons”; and

WHEREAS, Tibetan Americans, have been expressing concern at the Chinese Government's:

- travel restrictions against Tibetans and United States citizens
- restrictive regulations on religious affairs in Tibet
- censorship of Buddhist literature and information in Tibet
- demolition of Tibetan Buddhist sites
- imprisonment of Tibetan prisoners of conscience
- declarations that "Decision-making power over the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama and over the end of survival of his lineage resides with the central government of China"

WHEREAS, The Albany City Council affirms the determination of the Tibetan people in Tibet and outside, including the Tibetan Americans, to retain their heritage and protect it from destruction against overwhelming odds through non-violent and peaceful means.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Albany City Council that March 10, 2022, the 63rd anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising, shall be officially recognized as "Tibet Day"; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the City of Albany stands in solidarity with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan people and their just, peaceful and non-violent movement to remind the world of the occupation and ongoing suppression of human rights and freedom in Tibet and the continuous degradation of culture, religion, land and identity of the Tibetan people by China.

Date: March 7, 2022


PRESTON JORDAN, MAYOR