

City of Albany

Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION OF LOVING DAY
June 12, 2022

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; and

WHEREAS, eventually their case was argued before the Supreme Court of the United States, where their victory created a landmark civil right; 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, recently leaked documents from the Supreme Court raise fears of future erosions of civil rights; 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, 2022, 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.

DATED: June 6, 2022

City of Albany Proclamation No. 2022-26

PRESTON JORDAN, MAYOR