

# *City of Albany*

## *Proclamation*

### **IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN & IN RECOGNITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AND HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed on December 10, 1948 by the members States of the United Nations, asserts recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Albany is on record in support of human rights, women's rights, and in solidarity with our Iranian community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Albany celebrates our Iranian community and culture that adds to our City's rich diversity and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, Nasrin Sotoudeh, widely recognized as Iran's Mandela, is currently serving a 38-year prison sentence with 148 lashes (although currently on medical furlough). A distinguished lawyer and human rights activist, Sotoudeh has become a symbol of the Iranian peoples' nonviolent struggle for justice, dignity, and equality; and

**WHEREAS**, women in Iran are systematically subject to an oppressive state with much harsher restrictions than men, as exemplified by the murder of Mahsa Amini, along with other women protesting her death, by the Islamic Republic of Iran's security forces; and

**WHEREAS**, many individuals have been imprisoned, tortured, and executed for being defenders of human rights by the Islamic Republic of Iran; many demonstrators are being subjected to such a treatment.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Albany City Council does hereby ask for the immediate cessation of human rights abuses against the Iranian people; and,

**FURTHER**, the Albany City Council does hereby support the immediate release of Nasrin Sotoudeh and all other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

**FURTHER**, the Albany City Council does hereby affirm its support of human rights in Iran and in the City of Albany, including equal rights for women, the LGBTQ+ community, and minorities and the end of oppression against women and targeted religious, nonreligious and cultural minorities; and

**FURTHER**, the Albany City Council does hereby proclaim December 10, 2022, as Human Rights Day and December as Human Rights Month in the City of Albany, and we encourage all residents to study and promote the ideas contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the end that freedom, justice, and equality will flourish and be made available to all.

DATED: December 5, 2022  
*City of Albany Proclamation No. 2022-43*

  
PRESTON JORDAN, MAYOR