

City of Albany

Proclamation

IN HONOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK May 7 – 13, 2023

WHEREAS, Public Service Recognition Week is celebrated the first full week in May nationwide, and is a time set aside to honor those who serve our nation as federal, state, county, and local government employees; and

WHEREAS, our community is served every day by City of Albany staff including the City's Administration Department, City Clerk Department, Community Development Department, Finance Department, Fire Department, Human Resources Department, Police Department, Public Works Department, and Recreation & Community Services Department; and

WHEREAS, the public servants of the City of Albany have demonstrated commitment and dedication as evident in the daily interactions and services provided to our community; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Department includes the services of public information and community media, information technology, economic development, and the day to day administration of city services; and

WHEREAS, staff has made significant programmatic additions to Economic Development, which provides informational resources, marketing, and support to Albany's businesses and prospective businesses through direct outreach including the ChooseAlbany.org website which was introduced in September 2022, the ZoomProspector platform which offers free consumer insights to the business community, a quarterly e-newsletter, social media mentions; and

WHEREAS, Economic Development oversees programs such as Albany Local Week, where the Albany eGift Card Program was introduced and included a buy one get one matching offer to benefit the participating businesses and customers, and small business grant programs such as a COVID-19 relief grant, a business attraction and improvement grant, a parklet improvement grant, and a window and door repair grant; and

WHEREAS, the Information Technology Division continues to support staff in the day-to-day operations of the City and proactively pursues additional measures to ensure the security of the City's network and associated technology; and

WHEREAS, the Information Technology Division enrolled and trained all City of Albany employees in Cybersecurity Awareness Training, and implemented an additional Email Security solution to block over 500 suspicious inbound emails monthly; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk Department facilitated the in-person and virtual options to join public meetings for the community to have readily flexible and accessible ways to participate in local government; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 the City Clerk Department processed 9 Ordinances (including Urgency Ordinances), 142 Resolutions, 44 Proclamations, 40+ submitted bids and proposals, over 100 public records requests, and more than 350 City Council Agenda items; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Community Development Department's Planning & Building Division processed 72 planning applications (90% of the volume compared to 2021, but including a record 26 ADUs) and 752 building permits (98% of the volume compared with 2021, but including the SAHA development project, the largest application in nearly a decade); and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Department's Transportation Division is actively involved in the planning, design, and community engagement of transportation safety improvement projects including improving pedestrian visibility at intersections, bicycle facility signage and striping, development of the outdoor dining parklet program, creation of micro-mobility ordinance, and the preparation of a Local Road Safety Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Department's Sustainability Division leads environmental programs and outreach, and in 2022 the Division continued implementation of the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, which included strengthening green building measures for new construction and remodels resulting in, among other things, 55% of HVAC replacements converting to all-electric heat pumps, implementing multifamily electric vehicle charging and home electrification rebate programs, providing free compost and recycling receptacles and sorting brochures to 50+ businesses in Albany, and distributing 40 cubic yards of locally-made compost to the community through the Compost Giveaway; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department issued 3,047 payments to 552 individuals and organizations in fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department conducts ongoing monitoring and accounting of the City's fiscal wellness and serves as staff liaison to the City's Financial Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department issued over 2,100 business licenses and renewals in calendar year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department continues to implement operational enhancements to further the City's ability to responsibly project long-term budgeting and asset replacement needs; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department maintained an average median response time for all medical calls in the City of Albany of 3 minutes and 14 seconds and; Fire suppression units outperformed the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) response standard of 9 minutes and 20 seconds 90% of the time; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department educated school aged children in fire prevention and safety; and provided disaster response training to school staff; and performed Fire Code Life Safety Inspections for all multifamily housing, schools, and businesses within Albany; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department was deployed to major wildfires including the McKinney and Mosquito Fires; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department continues the City's Disaster Preparedness/Emergency management efforts and works in coordination with other City Departments to further the City's abilities to respond in the event of a disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department strives to provide a safe, healthy and positive working environment for City of Albany employees; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department provides services to former City of Albany employees, current City of Albany employees, potential new employees through the recruitment and selection process, and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department received more than 800 applications for employment and filled over 30 vacancies in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department created a chaplain program to help provide support to the community and police staff; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department continues to strive to build strong community relationships and engagement events including the annual National Night Out event with 35 block parties within the City, and continues to conduct other events including Coffee with a Cop to connect with the community; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department dispatch center received over 6,000 calls to 911; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department handled over 30,000 incidents in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department operates and maintains the City's buildings, parks, open spaces, sidewalks, urban forest, roadways and infrastructure systems and staff respond to City maintenance needs on an ongoing basis, including but not limited to cleaning and inspecting sewer and storm drain lines, removing vegetation hazards in the public right-of-way, performing repairs at City buildings, cleaning and maintaining City park facilities, and responding to urgent after-hours calls; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department proactively prepared for several major storms, and responded to storm-related issues to minimize flooding, and other storm-related hazards to help ensure the ongoing safety of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department continues to implement the City's sidewalk repair program as funded by the local Measure P1 Sidewalk Parcel Tax, with rehabilitation work

spanning a total of 82 locations and approximately 12,300 square feet of sidewalk and projects to address most of the critical repairs throughout the City by the end of 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department actively administers the City's Pavement Management Plan, covering approximately 29.4 centerline roadway miles and associated features, and spanning over 5,000,000 square feet of pavement, with several projects underway and in planning to continue to improve City streets; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has continued a productive rate of sewer rehabilitation, installing new sewer lines on an ongoing basis, and has maintained the City's compliance with the USEPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) Sanitary Sewer Consent Decree through a combination of capital work and increased maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department continues to maintain and enhance the City's natural resources through tree planting and restoration of open space areas including Albany's Creeks and Albany Hill, and works in coordination with local nonprofit organizations including Urban Tilth to perform ongoing stewardship in these areas; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department programming at the Senior Center includes Senior Nutrition Programs, classes and services, day trips and presentations. Senior Center staff and volunteers delivered 9,736 meals, served 3,640 in-per person meals, provided 1,536 shopping trips and packaged and distributed 773 bags of groceries; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department processed 1,086 picnic reservations and accommodated 6,942 tennis court reservations at Jewel's Terrace, Memorial, and Ocean View Parks; 14 block parties, 1,218 sports field reservations, and 1,614 facility reservations along with hosting and supporting community groups such as Alameda County Registrar of Voters, American Red Cross, CERT, Albany Library, Friends of Albany Library, and Albany Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department's Albany CARES program provided referral and resource services to 542 individuals, distributed 3,200 bags of groceries and essential household items through the Community Grocery Program, provided subsidies to 30 Friendship Club and Friendship Camp participants, and expanded access to renter rebates and homeowner exemptions; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department successfully offered safe and engaging after-school programming for 55 children every day during the school year, 130 seasonal camp participants and 320 summer camp participants; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department launched Parent + Child Messy Art program that ran for 6 sessions and had 52 participants, continued to run a Junior Counselor Program that offered 21 participants, 6th-10th graders, the opportunity to experience leadership opportunities in afterschool and camp programs, and hosted the Parents Night Out events that served 57 children and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation & Community Services Department currently offers over 100 programs for youth and adults. The department hosted community events such as the Albany Community Expo, Concerts in the Park, and 4th of July in the Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Albany City Council does hereby proclaim the week of May 7 – 13, 2023 as Public Service Recognition Week in the City of Albany and expresses gratitude to the City of Albany’s dedicated employees for their ongoing commitment to serve our City.

Dated: May 1, 2023

City of Albany Proclamation No. 2023-11



AARON TIEDEMANN, MAYOR