

City of Albany

Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH November 2024

WHEREAS, on August 3, 1990, President George H.W. Bush declared the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month, thereafter, commonly referred to as Native American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, National Native American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages, and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Island communities and ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation; and

WHEREAS, National Native American Heritage Month recognizes Indigenous peoples past and present and honors Tribal sovereignty, promotes Tribal self-determination, and upholds the United States' treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has not always delivered on its promise of equal dignity and respect for Native Americans. For centuries, broken treaties, dispossession of ancestral lands, and policies of assimilation and termination sought to decimate Native populations and their ways of life; and

WHEREAS, despite this painful history, Indigenous peoples, their governments, and their communities have persevered and flourished; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have made immeasurable contributions to our country and local communities as teachers and scholars, scientists and doctors, writers and artists, business leaders and elected and public officials, members of the military, and so much more; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany recognizes and honors the history of the Indigenous people who originally lived in this area by reading a Land Acknowledgement prior to every City Council and Advisory Body meeting and including this statement as part of official City documents such as the Housing Element and Parks Recreation & Open Space Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany acknowledges and appreciates our relationship with the Ohlone people through signage at our borders declaring this to be Ohlone Territory and by flying the flag of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan at City Hall; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany commits to recognizing the original caretakers of the land and collaborate with the Indigenous communities, including meeting with the Sogorea Te' Land Trust to identify a sacred area on Albany Hill and reroute a walking trail to preserve that part of the land, demonstrating work done by the City and Urban Tilth to manage the hill and creek areas, and seed collecting of native plants to use at other sites.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Albany City Council hereby declares November 2024 as Native American Heritage Month and November 29th as Native American Heritage Day. We encourage all members of our community to celebrate and study the rich culture of Native Americans.

DATED: November 18, 2024
City of Albany Proclamation No. 2024-20

JOHN MIKI, MAYOR