

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 10/6/08

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Albany Centennial Letters, Resolutions, Proclamations, and Recognitions

REPORT BY: Beth Pollard, City Administrator
Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Receive letters and proclamations sent by elected officials, cities, and other public agencies honoring the 100th Anniversary of the City of Albany;
- 2) Recognize the Albany Historical Society, the Recreation & Community Services Department, and the Albany volunteers, City staff members, and groups for their work on the “Dinner with Albany” event on September 28, the Centennial weekend, and other Centennial events and activities throughout Albany’s 100th year.
- 3) Present Certificates of Appreciation to Joan Larson, Jack Rosano, Dorothy Brown, Jewel Okawachi, Kim Denton, Ruth Ganong, Peggy McQuaid, Marsha Skinner, Karen Sorensen, and Chelle Putzer.

BACKGROUND

On September 22, 1908, what we now call the City of Albany was officially incorporated. With the initiative of the Albany Historical Society, the involvement of various Albany organizations, the organizing and execution by City Recreation & Community Services staff, and the participation of many volunteers and other City staff people, Albany has been celebrating its incorporation throughout the year since the kickoff event on February 23, 2008.

Many cities, elected officials, and other public agencies throughout the country have sent letters and proclamations honoring the Albany Centennial. A list of those recognitions is listed as part of this staff report.

DISCUSSION

On September 27, 2008, in celebration of Albany’s Centennial, the City hosted “Dinner with Albany”. Approximately 2,000 residents along with friends and family attended the event. Solano Avenue was lined tables and chairs, lights and Centennial décor not to

mention two bands and a traveling quartette. Restaurants along the main strip between Kains Avenue and Cornell Avenue participated by offering Centennial specials, take out, and sidewalk dining.

An event of this magnitude could not have happened without a dedicated staff and the help of dozens of volunteers. The City of Albany would like to thank the volunteers who showed up as early as 7:00 a.m. to help hang lights as well as those who worked throughout the day and stayed until midnight helping with clean up. The Recreation staff along side staff from Public Works, Community Development, and the Administration Department all contributed to a successful event. Thanks also go to the Police Department for providing extra officers for the evening. Although the event was problem free, the presence of the officers was very much appreciated.

Additionally, the event could not have happened without the vision of one staff person. Chelle Putzer from the Recreation and Community Services Department deserves special thanks, as the idea and the organization of the event were her doing. The City is fortunate to have staff that works so well together with the vision and leadership of such a creative and innovative person.

City staff and volunteers were not the only ones hard at work preparing for Dinner with Albany. The Albany Historical Society was active in the planning meetings over the past several months and hosted the “People Finder” station at the event. The Historical Society provided pictures of Albany’s history that were displayed on the “All About You” board which the Historical Society also created. With pictures and video footage from the event, as well as answers to several questions which citizens provided on the “All About You” board, the Historical Society will ensure that the event is documented and preserved for generations to come.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Once the last of the invoices have been submitted, staff will present a final accounting of the cost to Council.

Attachments

A) Letters/proclamations received by the City of Albany

Letters/Proclamations were sent from:

President Bush

Dianne Feinstein

Barbara Boxer

Barbara Lee

San Leandro

Piedmont

San Pablo

Alameda

Livermore

Union City

Fremont

Newark

El Cerrito

Dublin

Albany, Oregon

Albany, New York

Albany County, New York

Harwich, MA

Alameda County Board of Supervisors

B) Proclamation