

City of Albany

Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD POLIO DAY

October 24, 2025

WHEREAS, Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who unite and take action to create lasting change in communities across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Rotary in 1985 launched PolioPlus and in 1988 helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which today includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to immunize the children of the world against polio; and

WHEREAS, World Polio Day was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, the medical researcher who led the first team to develop a vaccine against polio and serves as a moment to honor the progress made, recognize the dedication of health workers and volunteers, and renew our collective resolve to finish the job; and

WHEREAS, the virus is spread person to person, typically through contaminated water, and most commonly affects children under 5. It can attack the nervous system, sometimes leading to paralysis; and

WHEREAS, polio doesn't have any cure, making prevention through vaccines absolutely critical; and

WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99.9 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease; and

WHEREAS, Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries that continue to report cases of wild poliovirus; and

WHEREAS, detections of the poliovirus in New York and in sewage in London in recent years have increased awareness of the disease's continued threat; and

WHEREAS, to date, Rotary has contributed more than US\$2.9 billion and countless volunteer hours to protecting nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries; and

WHEREAS, Rotary is working to raise an additional \$50 million per year, which would be leveraged for maximum impact by an additional \$100 million annually from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

WHEREAS, these efforts are providing much-needed operational support, medical staff, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents; and

WHEREAS, the most effective and trusted vaccine distributors are women from the local community and their service in this dangerous job cannot be overlooked; and


WHEREAS, in addition, Rotary has played a major role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$11 billion to the effort; and

WHEREAS, continued political and financial commitment is essential to overcome the final hurdles, strengthen health systems, and ensure that no child anywhere suffers from polio ever again.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Albany City Council does hereby proclaim October 24, 2025, as World Polio Day in the City of Albany, and encourages all citizens to support and join the efforts of Rotary International, the Albany Rotary Club, and all members of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in their ongoing fight to achieve a polio-free world.

DATED: October 20, 2025

City of Albany Proclamation No. 2025-25



ROBIN D. LÓPEZ, MAYOR