

City of Albany

Proclamation

IN HONOR OF FIRE CHIEF JAMES (JIM) BOITO UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF ALBANY

WHEREAS, James (Jim) Boito was appointed as an Albany Firefighter/Paramedic on May 21, 1996, beginning more than 30 years of dedicated service to the City of Albany; and

WHEREAS, Jim was promoted through the ranks to Fire Engineer on June 12, 2000; Lieutenant on August 16, 2010; and Captain on July 23, 2012, having worked in every position level within the Fire Department and demonstrating a deep commitment to learning and excellence in each role; and

WHEREAS, Jim excelled as a Paramedic Preceptor, sharing his extensive knowledge and helping develop the next generation of firefighters and paramedics; and

WHEREAS, Jim served as a mentor for aspiring fire engineers, training them on how to drive, pump, and become effective and skilled in their duties; and

WHEREAS, as a skilled grant writer, Jim successfully secured a \$500,000 grant in 2009 that enabled the Fire Department to acquire a much-needed Quint apparatus, significantly enhancing its fire suppression and rescue capabilities; and

WHEREAS, Jim served as President of the Albany Firefighters Union, where he worked tirelessly to give back to the community and strengthen the connection between the fire department and the residents of Albany; and

WHEREAS, Jim served on the Apparatus Specification Committee for Albany Engine 2, Truck 1, and Medic 2, contributing his hands-on operational knowledge to ensure the fire department acquired the most effective and reliable emergency response vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Jim earned a Bachelor of Arts in Public Safety and Emergency Management from Grand Canyon University while balancing the responsibilities of his career, further strengthening his knowledge and leadership capabilities in the field of emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Jim was appointed as City of Albany Fire Chief on November 10, 2021, providing steady, positive, and caring leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges, and during his tenure as Chief, he successfully increased daily staffing from six to seven firefighters per shift, improving response capabilities and firefighter safety; and

WHEREAS, one of the first major initiatives Jim advanced upon appointment as Fire Chief with expertise, collaboration, and dedication was the assessment of fire hazards on Albany Hill, working across multiple departments to develop an actionable plan that reduces wildfire risk while enhancing the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, Jim was integral in securing additional funding with partners at UC Berkeley to support apparatus replacement and operational readiness, strengthening the Fire Department's long-term capabilities; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with surrounding fire departments, Jim was able to successfully obtain federal funding, including \$250,000 for the City of Albany through partnership with Congresswoman Simon to help fund a regional training center to develop and deliver superior training that improves the safety of East Bay residents and emergency responders; and

WHEREAS, Jim served as President of the Alameda County Fire Chiefs Association, providing strong advocacy and leadership for firefighters and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals across the region; and

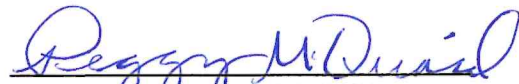
WHEREAS, Jim served as President of the EMS Section for the Alameda County Fire Chiefs Association, providing strong advocacy and leadership for firefighters and EMS professionals across the region; and

WHEREAS, Jim was deployed on numerous strike teams throughout his career, including to the devastating Camp Fire in Paradise, California, exemplifying his commitment to regional mutual aid and support for communities in crisis; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Jim has taken great pride in his professional knowledge, mentored countless colleagues, and demonstrated unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of Albany residents, businesses, and his fellow firefighters.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Albany City Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Fire Chief James Boito for his many years of dedicated service to the City of Albany.

DATED: April 20, 2026
City of Albany Proclamation No. 2026-10


PEGGY McQUAID, MAYOR