City of Albany

Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD POLIO DAY
October 24, 2026

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 launched PolioPlus in 1985 and in 1988 became a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which today brings together national governments and key partners, including the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to immunize children around the world against polio; and

WHEREAS, World Polio Day was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, 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, polio is a highly infectious disease that spreads from person to person, primarily through the fecal-oral route and, less frequently, through contaminated water or food, and most commonly affects children under five; it can invade the nervous system and cause paralysis; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for polio, making prevention through vaccination essential; and

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

WHEREAS, Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only countries where wild poliovirus remains endemic; and

WHEREAS, the detection of poliovirus in New York and in wastewater in London in recent years has demonstrated that polio remains a global threat, even in countries where the disease has been eliminated; and

WHEREAS, Rotary has contributed more than US $2.9 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect more than 3 billion children in 122 countries from polio, while its advocacy efforts have helped secure more than $11 billion in contributions from donor governments; and

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

WHEREAS, these efforts provide much-needed operational support, health workers, laboratory equipment, vaccines, and educational materials for health workers and parents; and

WHEREAS, women from local communities play a vital role in delivering vaccines and reaching children and families, often serving on the front lines of this critical and sometimes dangerous work; 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, the Albany City Council does hereby proclaim October 24, 2026, as World Polio Day in the City of Albany, and encourages all residents 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 19, 2026

PEGGY McQUAID, MAYOR

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