

Proclamation

Whereas, albinism refers to a group of inherited genetic conditions that affect the body's ability to produce melanin or pigment; and

Whereas, albinism occurs in all racial and ethnic groups throughout the world. In the United States, approximately one in 18,000 people have some type of albinism. In other parts of the world, the occurrence can be as high as one in 3,000. Most children with albinism are born to parents who have normal hair and eye color for their ethnic backgrounds; and

Whereas, people with albinism have vision problems that are not correctable with eyeglasses, and many have low vision. It's the abnormal development of the retina and abnormal patterns of nerve connections between the eye and the brain that cause vision problems; and

Whereas, the degree of vision impairment varies with the different types of albinism. Although people with albinism may be considered "legally blind" with a corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or worse, most learn to use their vision in a variety of ways and are able to perform activities such as reading, riding a bike, fishing, and even driving a car; and

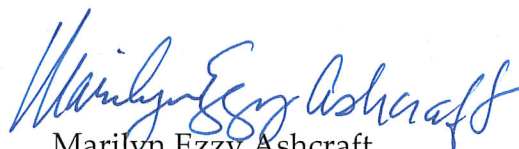
Whereas, people with albinism are at risk of isolation because the condition is often misunderstood. Social stigmatization can occur, especially within communities of color, where the race or paternity of a person with albinism may be questioned. Families and schools must make an effort to include children with albinism in group activities. Contact with others with albinism or who have albinism in their families or communities is most helpful; and

Whereas, International Albinism Awareness Day is celebrated annually on June 13 and the 2019 theme is "Still Standing Strong," which was chosen to recognize, celebrate, and encourage strength in persons with albinism.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, do hereby proclaim June 13, 2019 as

International Albinism Awareness Day

in the City of Alameda to help promote awareness of this condition and acceptance of those with albinism.


Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Mayor

