

# Proclamation

## In Recognition of the Fort Bragg Police Department and Fort Bragg Police Department Appreciation Day - August 10, 2020

**Whereas**, Fort Bragg Police Officers and other law enforcement officers across the United States serve with valor, dignity, and integrity and are charged with pursuing justice for all individuals, while performing their duties in compliance with the constitutional and civil rights of the public they serve; and

**Whereas**, Fort Bragg police officers bravely continue to meet the call of duty to ensure the security of our neighborhoods and community at the risk of their own personal safety during a viral global pandemic and racial unrest across the country; and

**Whereas**, law and order in any community must be a collaboration between the citizens, the police and the elected officials; and

**Whereas**, the Fort Bragg Police Department had nearly 20,000 documented calls for service in 2019 and many hundreds of those calls resulted in positive contacts with members of the community; and

**Whereas**, the Department consistently maintains standards put forth by the California Commission on Officer Standards and Training which includes training related to: domestic violence, use of force, persons with mental illness, racial and cultural diversity, racial profiling, sexual assault and sexual harassment, sexual orientation, gender identification, and civil disobedience; and

**Whereas**, the Department has actively worked with local groups to preserve their First Amendment right to peacefully protest; and

**Whereas**, Fort Bragg Police Department works closely with other first responder agencies including Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Hospital, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, the California Highway Patrol and the Fort Bragg Fire Department with hundreds of calls for assistance annually; and

**Whereas**, the Fort Bragg Police Department bravely encounters potentially infected Covid-19 patients daily; assists with mentally ill and homeless individuals; interacts with drug abusers and others under the influence of illegal substances; and de-escalates many violent situations regularly; and

**Whereas**, the Fort Bragg Police Department recently banned the use of choke holds and the Fort Bragg City Council recently adopted Resolution Number 4272-2020 requiring a hiring policy for police officers to disqualify any applicant based on prior acts of misconduct, which includes but is not limited to: use of excessive force, racial bias, sexual assault, discrimination against race, gender, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, or dishonesty relating to the reporting, investigation, or prosecution of a crime; and

**Whereas**, the City Council of Fort Bragg:

1. Recognizes the need to ensure that law enforcement officers have the equipment, training, and resources that are necessary to protect the public;

2. Expresses unwavering support for law enforcement officers of the City of Fort Bragg who act ethically and with integrity in pursuit of preserving a safe and secure community; and
3. Expresses its strong support for the dedication of the Fort Bragg Police Department to respect all individuals regardless of race or culture, and to adopt and emphasize constitutional, ethical, and unbiased law enforcement practices.

**Now, Therefore, I William Lee**, Mayor of the City of Fort Bragg, on behalf of the entire City Council call upon all citizens of Fort Bragg and upon all patriotic, civic and educational organizations to observe the day of August 10, 2020 as Fort Bragg Police Department Appreciation Day and urge all citizens to make every effort to personally thank these brave men and women who faithfully protect and serve all citizens and visitors of our beautiful Coastal Community.

SIGNED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020

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**WILLIAM V. LEE, Mayor**

ATTEST:

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**June Lemos, CMC, City Clerk**

No. 06-2020

