



## CITY OF FORT BRAGG

*Incorporated August 5, 1889*

416 N. Franklin Street

Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Phone: (707) 961-2823

Fax: (707) 961-2802

<http://city.fortbragg.com/>

July 22, 2020

This City Council letter of support for and confidence in the current City Manager of Fort Bragg, California, Tabatha Miller, is unanimously attested to by the undersigned City Councilmembers.

In 2017, the Council undertook a nationwide search for a new City Manager, interviewed several strong candidates and finally decided to hire Tabatha Miller for the position. We have been very impressed with her leadership style, her quality of work and her professionalism in all matters relating to governance and management. Tabatha demonstrates ethical conduct, conscientious decision-making and enjoys the confidence and full trust of the City Council. She is fair, straightforward, honest and a principled leader.

Since accepting the position of City Manager, Tabatha has guided our community during local public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) by our electricity provider during firestorm season; business shut-downs during the Covid-19 pandemic emergency; local economic collapse resulting in City employee furloughs and layoffs and she has led with courage and fortitude.

The City of Fort Bragg prides itself on being a diverse City and passed a resolution in January 2017 professing our commitment to non-discrimination and support for immigrants in our City. In resolution 4272-2020 passed in June 2020 we went further, adopting a hiring policy for police officers to disqualify any applicant based on prior acts of misconduct. In that resolution, we reiterate that the Fort Bragg City Council opposes all discrimination, be it based on skin color, race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, pregnancy, medical background, housing status, religion, or genetic information. Tabatha Miller reflects those values and allows her moral compass to guide her in her everyday tasks for the people of Fort Bragg, California.

Tabatha Miller has been accessible and responsive to our community members. She has demonstrated the ability to listen, adapt to criticism and problem solve to meet individuals' needs without losing sight of the greater picture. One such example is the

cross-departmental coordination of new processes to address emerging concerns following the George Floyd killing in Minneapolis. A community member requested a permit to hold a peaceful protest in our city center. Permits are not required by City Hall but at the citizen's request, our City Manager and Police Chief worked together with staff to urgently create the requested permitting process so that protesters would feel safe in the public space. They not only created and expedited the process, but they also attended the protest and respectfully took a knee with our community in an act of solidarity. Other responsive actions have included expanded harassment training for city employees, staff support for the creation of a racial justice citizens commission, assessment of police policies and discussion of additional de-escalation training, to name a few.

Recently, the City Council received an email from a community member that disparaged our City Manager. This email was forwarded to the press, local and State leaders and potential future employers of Tabatha - the City Commission of Helena, Montana - where Tabatha had applied for the position of City Manager. This email was full of inaccuracies, professional defamations and false allegations. This community member misrepresented our City Manager which may result in professional harm, a tarnished reputation and possible mental anguish. The Fort Bragg City Council denounces these tactics, and we stand in complete support and admiration for the work of this City Manager.

Sincerely,

William V. Lee  
Mayor

Bernie Norvell  
Vice Mayor

Teresa K. Albin-Smith  
Councilmember

Jessica Morsell-Haye  
Councilmember

Lindy Peters  
Councilmember