RESOLUTION NO. 2010-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTING THE FERN TIGER ASSOCIATES REPORT: VOICES TO VISION – A COMMUNITY’S VISION FOR ALBANY’S WATERFRONT

WHEREAS, in November, 2007, the City Council directed the Waterfront Committee to conduct a consultant solicitation process and make a recommendation to the City Council on the selection of a consultant, scope of work, and budget, for engagement with the community and preparation of a vision for the waterfront; and

WHEREAS, in December, 2007, the Waterfront Committee circulated a Request for Qualifications seeking firms with appropriate expertise to carry out a community visioning program for the Albany Waterfront, that would be a proactive, community-driven planning process; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2008, the Waterfront Committee voted to recommend to the City Council the selection of Fern Tiger Associates to conduct a waterfront visioning process; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2008, the City Council authorized execution of a contract with Fern Tigers Associates to conceive, design and facilitate an appropriate process to educate and engage residents in a process to develop a shared vision for the future of the waterfront; and

WHEREAS, this was to be a process in which people would provide their perspectives, ideas, and goals rather than react to a fully-formed plan or proposal; and

WHEREAS, Fern Tiger Associates set out to design a process that responded to the concerns, issues, and perceptions of the community, and that offered opportunities for residents to provide meaningful input; and

WHEREAS, the design for the process was rooted in the need for objectivity, neutrality, trust, inclusiveness, education, and reliability; and
WHEREAS, over a two-year period, Fern Tiger Associates conducted researched, informed the community, engaged residents, analyzed feedback, and synthesized the results into key findings and recommended guideline in a process named “Voices to Vision”; and

WHEREAS, Fern Tiger Associates reviewed more than 5,000 pages of documents; prepared and sent a 20-page tabloid publication of facts and other information about the waterfront to all Albany addresses; created and displayed a model of the waterfront; made 26 presentations to Albany commissions and City Council; conducted 49 interactive community engagement sessions; offered community participation in three languages; analyzed more than 45,000 pieces of data; conducted an online questionnaire designed with individual passcodes for Albany households; and answered 143 questions in the publication and on the website; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1,2000 Albany residents, which represents about one in 10 adult residents, participated in Voices to Vision through community sessions and the questionnaire; and

WHEREAS, separate community engagement sessions were held for regional stakeholders who lived outside of Albany and for students at Albany High School; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2010 Fern Tiger Associates presented the *Voices to Vision Final Report and Recommendations* to the City Council and community, and was available at the City Council meeting of April 19, 2010 to answer questions; and

WHEREAS, the *Voices to Vision Final Report and Recommendations* consists of a 100-page report and a 842-page appendix; and

WHEREAS, the Final Report contains recommended guidelines on built area and dedicated open space; height limitations; allowable uses within the built area; site design and architectural quality; and financial implications; as well as a story of the process and illustrative site concept maps; and

WHEREAS, in summary, the Albany community envisions a 190-acre waterfront that is a model of environmental and economic sustainability; that supports a multi-
generational community, small-scale, independently-owned businesses; and local arts, culture, and cuisine,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby accepts the *Voices to Vision Final Report and Recommendations* to be used as a living document that reflects our citizens visions on the waterfront planning.

Joanne Wile
Mayor
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PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY,
this 19th day of April, 2010, by the following votes:

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Javandel, Lieber, Thomsen & Mayor Wile

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, this 20th day of April, 2010.

[Signature]

JACQUELINE L. BUCHOLZ, CMC
CITY CLERK