

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2020 the Rogue Valley, specifically the communities of Talent, Phoenix, and Northern Ashland were gravely impacted by the Almeda Fire; and

WHEREAS, three people lost their lives; and

WHEREAS, the Almeda Fire destroyed over 2,600 residences and businesses; and

WHEREAS, our first responders and other hometown heroes stepped forward to answer the call and aid our community both during the event and in the weeks and months that followed; and

WHEREAS, many residents have been impacted by this experience and carry the combined memory and trauma of the Almeda Fire, as informed by our individual experiences; and

WHEREAS, the experience of the Almeda Fire brought forward the unity of our collective Rogue Valley communities expressed by strength, selfless volunteerism, and a genuine outpouring of support for our deeply impacted neighbors.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council and Mayor request that all citizens of Ashland join together in support of community members recovering from this traumatic event, and in gratitude to our first responders and hometown heroes who responded in a time of great need. We commemorate the first anniversary of the Almeda Fire, and understand that though time has passed, healing occurs across a continuum of both time and enduring community support. We continue to stand with our neighbors across all impacted communities as recovery and rebuilding unfolds.

Julie Akins, Mayor

Melissa Huhtala, City Recorder