Public Works Visibility:
How to be Recognized as First Responders





AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION
APWA
Your Comprehensive Public Works Resource



Joubin Pakpour, MS, PE

Construction Laborer

1995 BS Civil Engineering SJSU

1998 MS Civil Engineering SJSU

Contra Costa County Public Works Department

400 Person Municipal Consulting Firm

Since 2004 Part Owner of Pakpour Consulting Group

Serve as Contract District and City Engineer

Region VIII Director, Representing California, Nevada and Hawaii on National APWA Board

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Do you consider yourself as a first responder? Yes!

In 2003, President George W. Bush issued Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8) officially recognizing public works as first responders.

In 2011 PPD-8 became the National Preparedness Goal

In 2019 the US Senate Passed Continuing Resolution Honoring the Nations First Responders. Public Works is specifically mentioned in the resolution.

First In – Last Out!

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FIRST RESPONDER

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Strategic Plan



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Visibility

ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS ROADSHOW
INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS







February 14, 2025 – I-95 Design Build Project in Miami Florida
October 19, 2024 – Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West in Belle Chasse, LA
August 29, 2024 – Clear Creek Canyon, Golden, Colorado
Feb. 22, 2024 — Northwest Valley Infrastructure Project in Phoenix, Arizona
Jan. 29, 2024 — Mountain Parkway Expansion in Frankfort, Kentucky
September 19, 2023 — Able Pump Station in Dallas, Texas
March 24, 2023 — The Shed at Main Street Station in Richmond, Virginia
Nov. 28, 2022 — Long Beach International Gateway Bridge, California

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Visibility











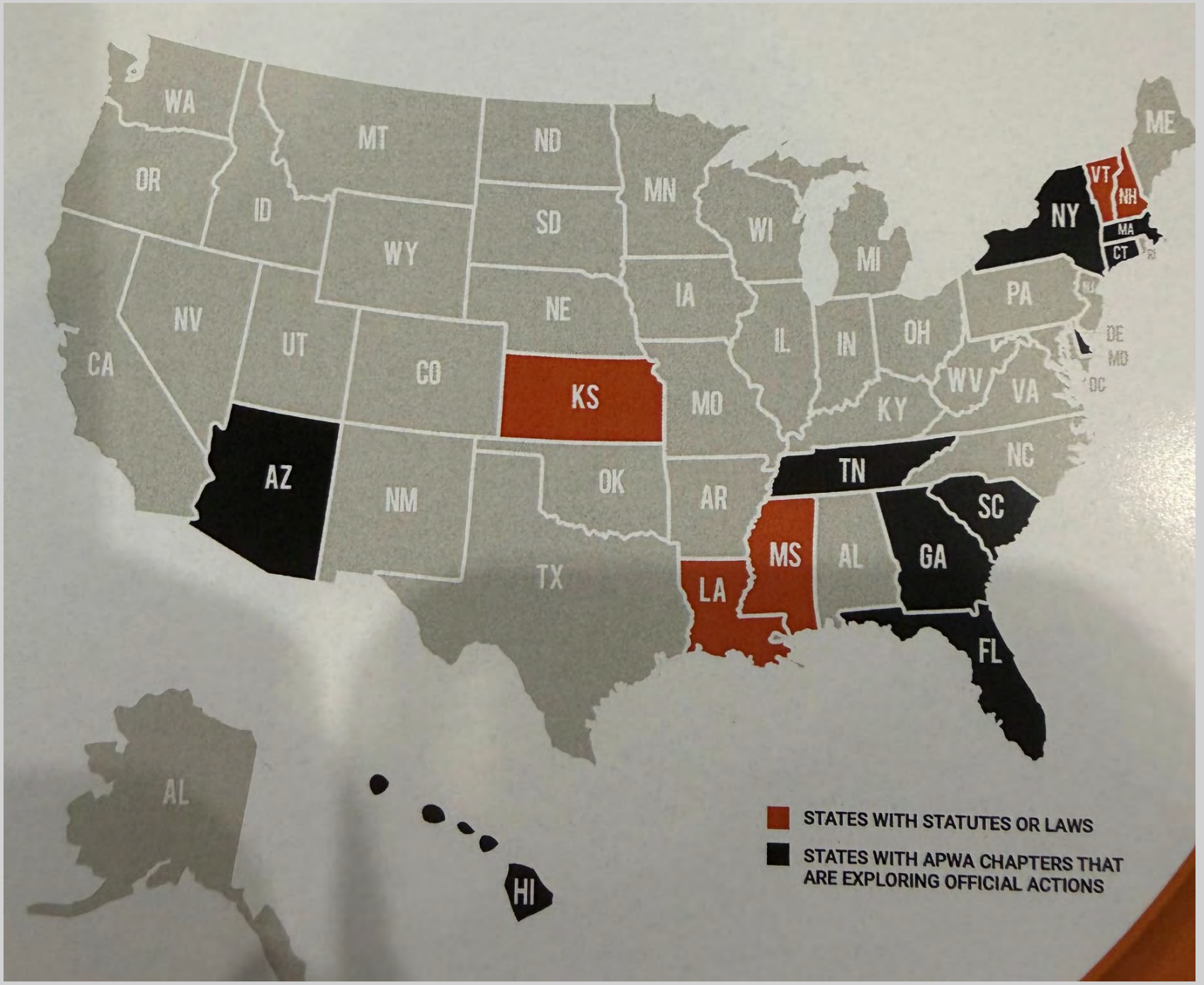
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Visibility


2026
APWA
Joubin Pakpour
Pakpour Consulting Group Inc
APWA ID
158746


PUBLIC WORKS
FIRST RESPONDER
FOR MORE INFORMATION
SCAN ME

Visibility



PUBLIC WORKS

FIRST RESPONDER

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Visibility

WHEREAS, Public works is often considered "the silent arm of public safety," usually without fanfare. Public works professionals provide vital support to emergency response partners, helping to protect essential services and restoring those services following an emergency, and are often the first on scene and the last to leave the scenes of disasters no matter the peril; and

WHEREAS, The year 2025 marks the 65th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association; and

WHEREAS, The American Public Works Association applauds the national recognition of the "Public Works First Responder" status and its use to support and promote public works first responders; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the Assembly hereby declares the week of May 18, 2025, to May 24, 2025, inclusive, as National Public Works Week in the State of California, and requests that the Governor issue a proclamation calling on the people of the great State of California to observe the week with appropriate programs and educational activities; and be it further

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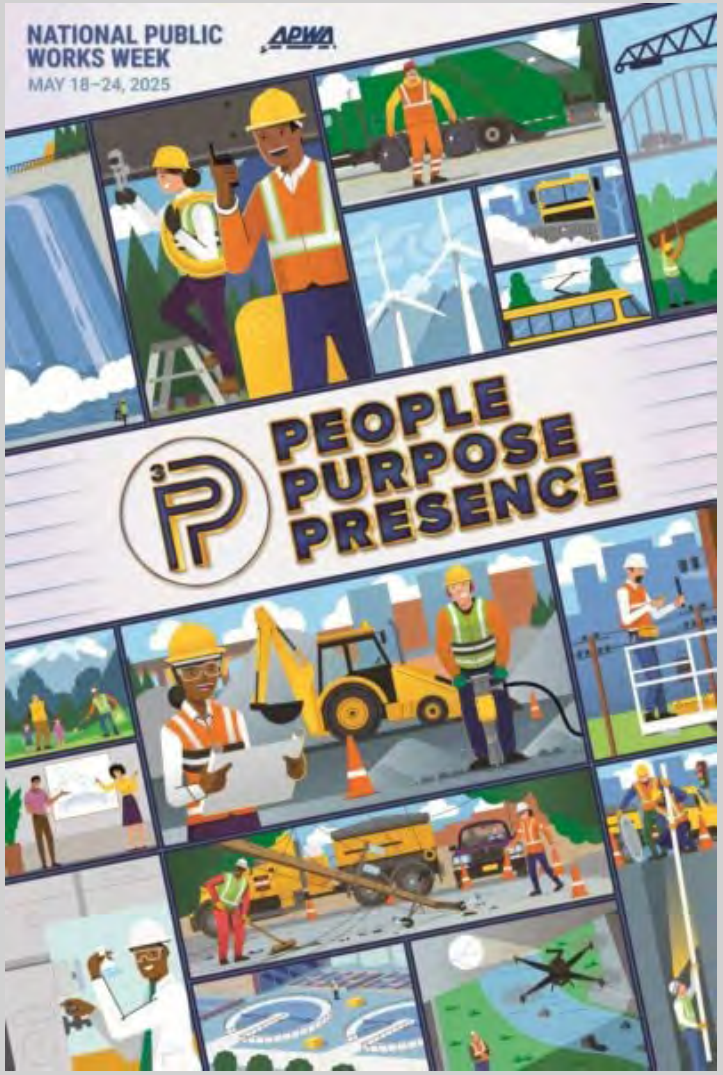
Visibility

What Can You Do?

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National Public Works Week
May 16 - 22, 2027



- Theme and Poster
- Downloads
- Proclamations
- How-To Guide
- Virtual How-To Guide
- Social Media



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APWA / ASCE / CMAA Awards & Accreditation



SAN RAFAEL
THE CITY WITH A MISSION

RESIDENTS BUSINESSES VISITORS DEPARTMENTS NEWS EVENTS CONTACT

Please note the time change of San Rafael Regular City Council Meetings to commence at 6:00 p.m.

San Rafael Public Safety Center wins an APWA Award

Posted on March 5, 2021



Sawyer Camp Trail: Historic Lower Crystal Springs Dam Project Receives "Project of the Year" Award

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FIRST RESPONDER

Visibility

National First Responder Day
October 28, 2026

PUBLIC WORKS

Sample Social Media Posts

Pre-NFRD

Next Tuesday is National First Responders Day. To celebrate, this week we'll be sharing stories from our team about times they've served as first responders. Listen as [name of person] talks about responding to [details of event] during the [season] of [year]. #FirstResponders [YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE THIS POST DEPENDING ON WHETHER YOU ARE SHARING PHOTOS FROM A RECENT EVENT OR A VIDEO CLIP]

Day-of

Did you know that public works professionals are first responders?

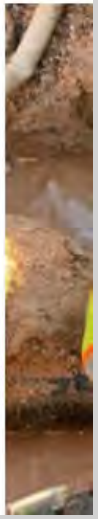
[Post APWA President Vic Bianes's video message or a video featuring someone from your team.]

#FirstResponders

- 30-second PSA, male voice

Checklist to Get Started

- Download the NFRD sample proclamation. Add your town/city/state name in the designated places and submit the request to your governor's or mayor's office. *Note: Many offices require 30 days to process a*



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FIRST RESPONDER

How Do I Get There?

MID-PENINSULA WATER DISTRICT

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

CITY OF BURBANK

SAN RAFAEL
THE CITY WITH A MISSION

CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

Contra Costa County Public Works Department

WELCOME TO THE CITY OF
BURLINGAME
CALIFORNIA

THE CITY OF BURLINGAME CALIFORNIA INCORPORATED 1908

Communication and Relationships

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Timeline of Public Works First Responder

In 2003, President George W. Bush issued Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8) officially recognizing public works as first responders.

In 2010, Mississippi, under House Bill (HB) 664, recognized public works professionals as first responders.

In 2017, the APWA Board of Directors approved the adoption of a national "Public Works First Responder" symbol for use throughout North America to identify public works personnel and acknowledge their federally mandated role as first responders.

In 2019, the US Senate passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 15 (S.Con.Res.15), "Expressing support for the designation of October 28, 2019, as Honoring the Nation's First Responders Day." Public works is specifically included.

In 2022 New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu signed into law SB325, formally recognizing public works employees as first responders.

In 2022, New Hampshire passed HB 536, "An Act relative to death benefits for public works employees killed in the line of duty, and relative to workers' compensation offsets for certain retirement system benefits."

Public works is often considered "the silent arm of public safety" … usually without fanfare. Public works professionals are often the first on scene and the last to leave the scenes of disasters—no matter the peril.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) lists public works alongside police, fire, and public.

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FIRST RESPONDER

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

Public Works collaborated with Police and Fire to Proclaim that Public Works Employees are recognized as First Responders on May 7th, 2024, at the City Council meeting in front of Council Members, the Pleasanton Executive Team, and Residents.


THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

Proclaims

May 19-25, 2024

as

National Public Works Week

WHEREAS, Pleasanton's Public Works team is responsible for maintaining and improving transportation, public buildings, water, sewer, storm drains, parks, and open space, and services that are of critical importance to creating a sustainable and resilient community and to the public health, high quality of life and well-being of the people of the city of Pleasanton; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department is a leader in environmentally sound and innovative practices to ensure the reliability of Pleasanton's infrastructure for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated members of Pleasanton's Public Works Department maintain, operate, and provide engineering for an aging infrastructure of 287 miles of streets and pavement markings, 8,070 streetlights, 121 signalized intersections, 11,870 traffic-related signs in 121 signalized intersections, 139 buildings, 66 parks and greenbelts totaling over 740 acres and nearly 700 acres of open space with 41 miles of trails and over 26,000 city trees and 45 playgrounds, 196 miles of storm drain pipes, 8,250 drain inlets, 8 detention basins and 9 miles of drainage ditches, water conservation and clean water programs, 4.5 billion gallons of drinking water and 375 million gallons of recycled water delivered annually, over 600 miles of water and sewer pipelines, 23 pump stations, 20 water reservoirs, 6,825 manholes; and

WHEREAS, public works employees are first responders who respond to emergency events alongside police and fire, ensuring that essential infrastructure and facilities are quickly assessed, restored, and reconstructed during an emergency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pleasanton City Council does hereby proclaim May 19-25, 2024, as National Public Works Week and encourages the community to acknowledge the daily contributions made by public works professionals to enhance and uplift our community's health, safety, comfort, and overall quality of life.

DATED this 7th day of May 2024.

Karla Brown, Mayor

Kathy Narum, Vice Mayor — Valerie Arkin, Councilmember

Jack Balch, Councilmember — Jeffrey Rubin, Councilmember



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FIRST RESPONDER

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON





RE: Water Line Construction Management Support

AN

Adam Nelkie <anelkie@cityofpleasantonca.gov>
To Steven Yee
Cc Joubin Pakpour; Brandon Laurie

Thanks guys I appreciate you guys seeing if you can help.

Sincerely

Adam Nelkie, (he/him)
Assistant Director of Public Works/City Engineer

D: (925) 931-5675
C: (925) 818-4418
F: (925) 931-5479
anelkie@cityofpleasantonca.gov

200 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566

City of Pleasanton | P.O. Box 520, Pleasanton, CA 94566

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CITY OF WALNUT CREEK



Not all heroes wear badges some carry shovels!



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Contra Costa County
Public Works
Department



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Contra Costa County
Public Works
Department



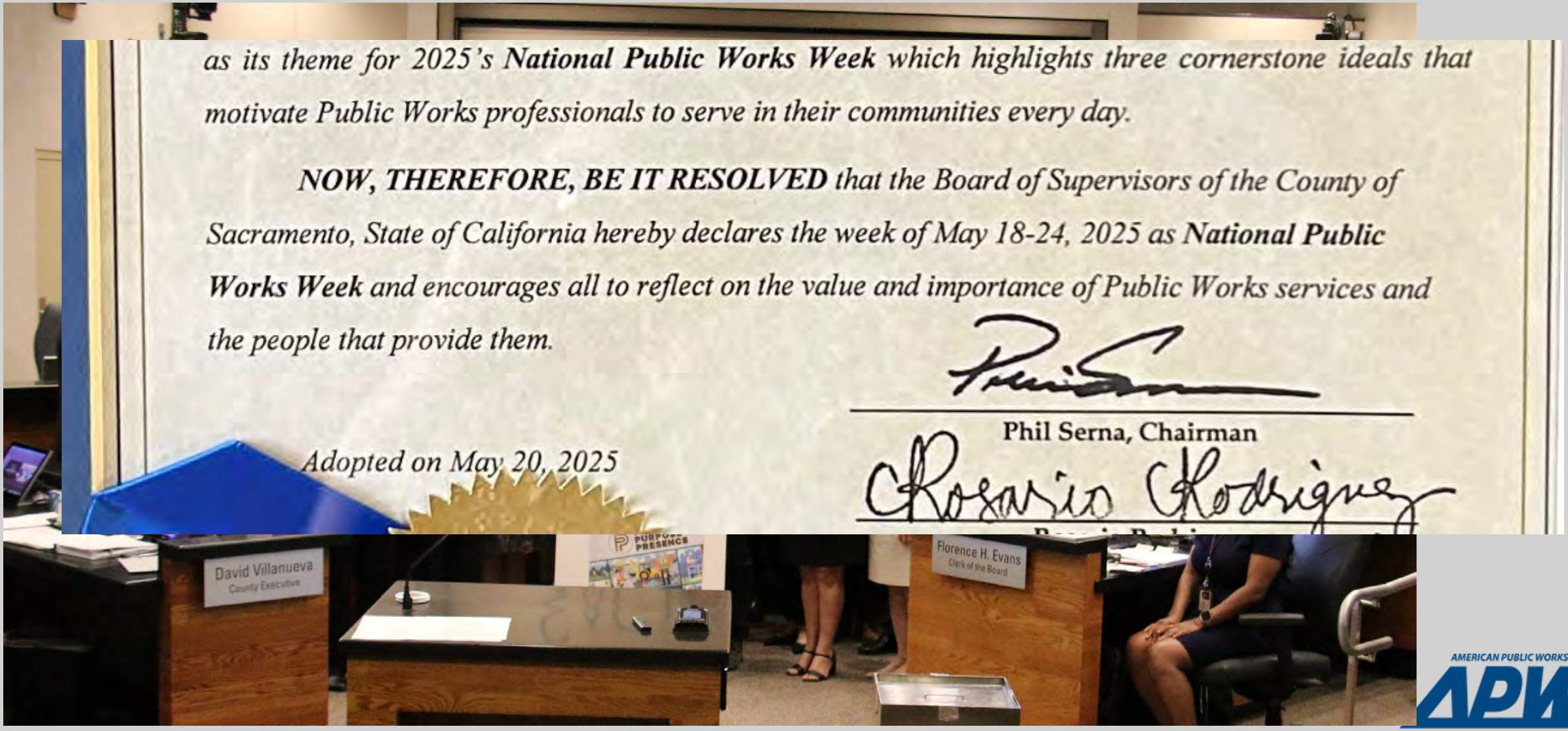


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SACRAMENTO COUNTY



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WELCOME TO THE CITY OF

BURLINGAME

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WELCOME TO THE CITY OF

BURLINGAME

CALIFORNIA

Now therefore, be it resolved, the City Council of the City of Burlingame, do hereby designate the week of May 18–24, 2025, as National Public Works Week and recognize all Burlingame Public Work's employees as First Responders. We urge all citizens to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events, and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and advancing quality of life for all.



In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Burlingame to be affixed this 19th day of May 2025.

Peter Stevenson, Mayor

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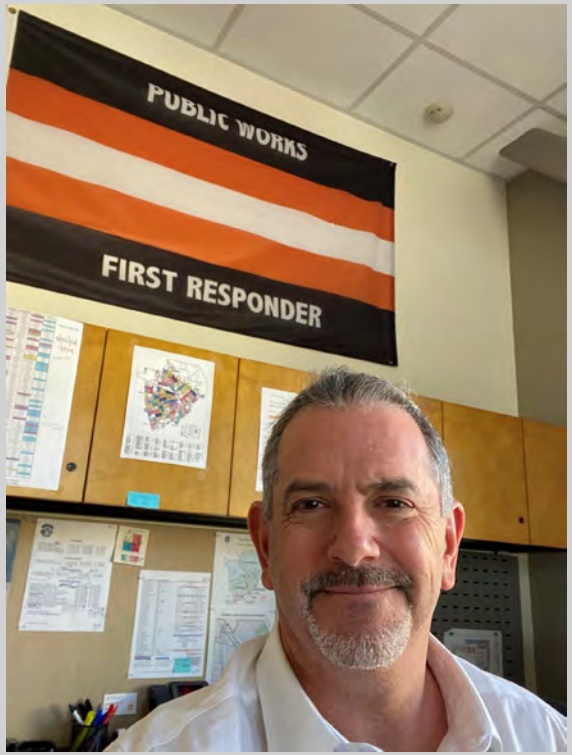
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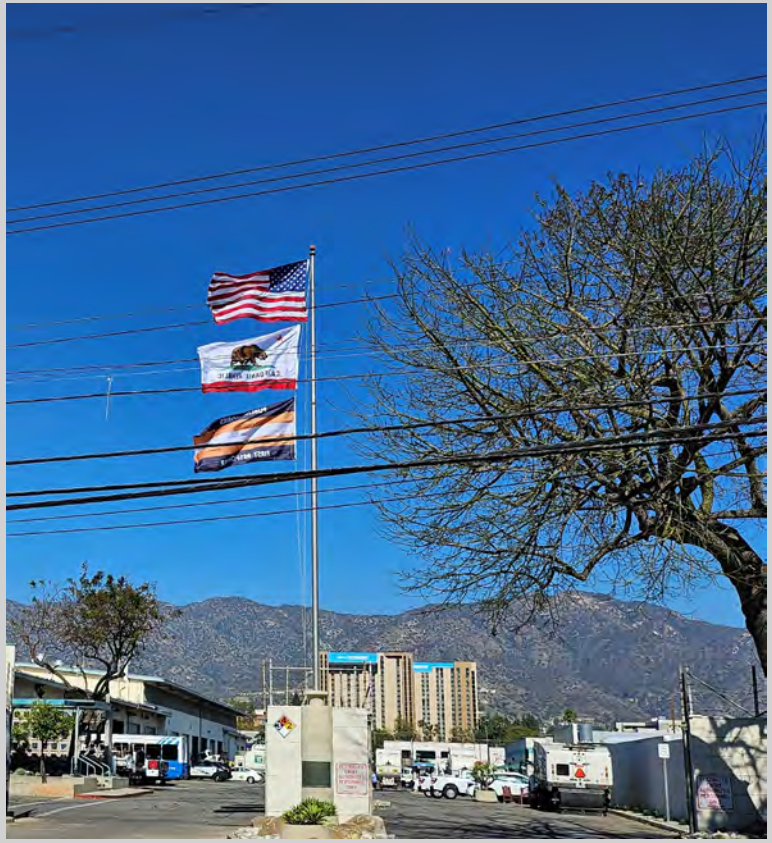
FIRST RESPONDER

CITY OF BURBANK









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MID-PENINSULA
WATER DISTRICT





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SAN RAFAEL

THE CITY WITH A MISSION



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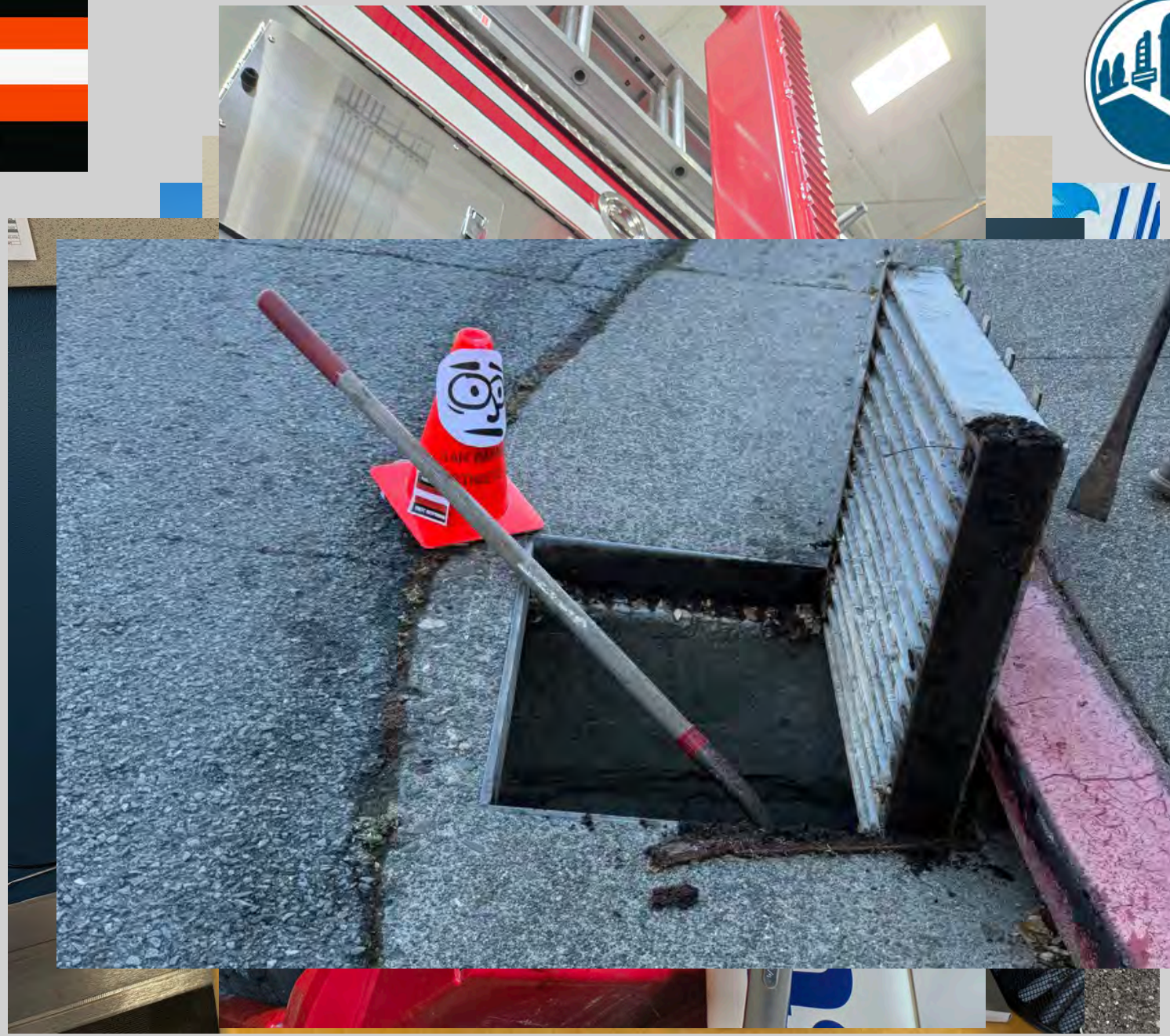
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FIRST RESPONDER

SAN RAFAEL

THE CITY WITH A MISSION



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

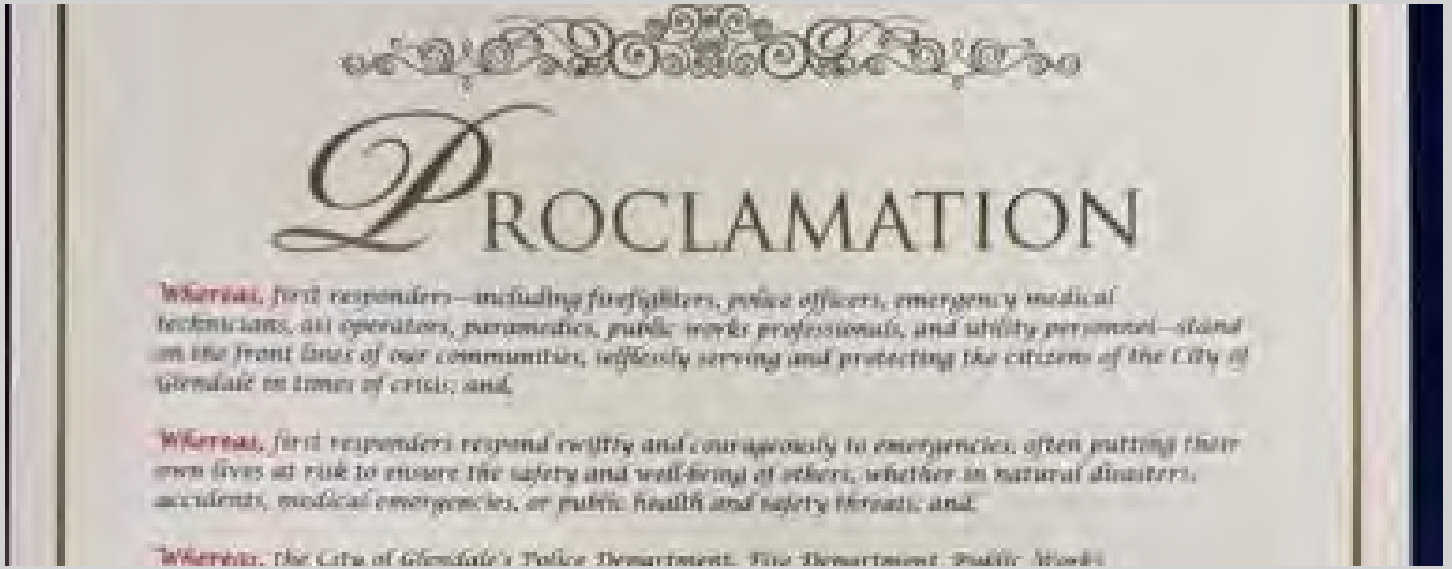
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FIRST RESPONDER





PROCLAMATION

Whereas, first responders—including firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, air operators, paramedics, public works professionals, and utility personnel—stand on the front lines of our communities, selflessly serving and protecting the citizens of the City of Glendale in times of crisis; and,

Whereas, first responders respond swiftly and courageously to emergencies, often putting their own lives at risk to ensure the safety and well-being of others, whether in natural disasters, accidents, medical emergencies, or public health and safety threats; and,

Whereas, the City of Glendale's Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works

Instagram

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PUBLIC WORKS

FIRST RESPONDER

APWA Sacramento Chapter

City of Elk Grove

2h

+ Follow

When an emergency happens, keeping our community safe takes a team.

Elk Grove Police officers are often on the front lines, responding to emergencies, protecting residents and helping coordinate the response. Alongside them, Public Works crews are clearing roads, addressing hazards, assessing damage and helping restore essential services.

During natural disasters and other emergencies, both departments play critical roles, often working long hours and in challenging conditions. While their responsibilities may look different, their commitment is the same: protecting our community and helping Elk Grove get back on its feet.

This First Responders Day, we're recognizing the dedication of our Police Department and Public Works teams, including the many ways they show up for our community, often behind the scenes and long after the immediate danger has passed.

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FIRST RESPONDER



Thank you in advance. I will send you a picture we receive the flag, and it is on our flagpole.

Michael Irwin
Public Works Director
719-486-0259

Lake County Government

PUBLIC WORKS

FIRST RESPONDER

Leadville, CO 10,152 ft

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FIRST RESPONDER

Proclamation

WHEREAS, first responders, including public works professionals, firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, 911 operators, paramedics, and other emergency personnel, stand on the front lines of our communities, selflessly serving and protecting the residents and visitors of the City and County of Honolulu in times of crisis while safeguarding lives and property; and





CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
STATE OF HAWAII

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FIRST RESPONDER

CITY OF LAS VEGAS PROCLAMATION



From the office of the Mayor

Proclamation

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY GIVEN TO ME BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA AND BY THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS,

I, SHELLEY BERKLEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM

October 28, 2026

AS

National First Responders Day

IN THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS; WE ASK ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO HONOR THE DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE AS FIRST RESPONDERS, INCLUDING PUBLIC WORKS PROFESSIONALS, FIREFIGHTERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, PARAMEDICS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, 911 OPERATORS, AND OTHER EMERGENCY PERSONNEL. THROUGH THEIR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT, EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE, AND SELFLESS SERVICE, THESE INDIVIDUALS PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN SAFEGUARDING THE LIVES AND WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY. THEIR WILLINGNESS TO RESPOND IN TIMES OF CRISIS, OFTEN UNDER CHALLENGING AND DANGEROUS CIRCUMSTANCES, REFLECTS THE HIGHEST IDEALS OF PUBLIC SERVICE. SPECIAL RECOGNITION IS EXTENDED TO PUBLIC WORKS PROFESSIONALS, WHOSE VITAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC SAFETY ARE INTEGRAL TO THE EFFORTS OF ALL FIRST RESPONDERS. ON THIS OCCASION, WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION FOR THEIR PROFESSIONALISM AND STEADFAST DEDICATION TO THOSE THEY SERVE.

BY THE POWERS GRANTED TO ME, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS TO BE AFFIXED THIS 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

Shelley Berkley

HONORABLE SHELLEY BERKLEY
MAYOR, CITY OF LAS VEGAS

PUBLIC WORKS ARE FIRST RESPONDERS

OCTOBER 28, 2026

National First Responders Day

"Special recognition is extended to public works professionals"

From the proclamation issued by Mayor Shelley Berkley



Thank you to the people who help protect our communities.

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Consultants & Vendors

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Summary & Resources

National Public Works Week (APWA Resources Available)

National First Responder Day (APWA Resources Available)

Celebrate Wins – Present Award at Your Council Meetings

Work on Getting Recognized as First Responders at your Agency

If Not You, Who?

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