



MELISSA WILK

ALAMEDA COUNTY

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER/CLERK-RECORDER

December 2021 Newsletter

Message from Melissa

Dear Alameda County,

I hope our last newsletter of 2021 finds everyone happy, healthy and doing well! It's hard to believe how quickly this past year has flown by as we prepare to celebrate the holiday season and look forward to a Happy New Year!

I always like to take this time of year to reflect on what we've been able to achieve in the past 12 months, things we've learned, what we think we got right and what we can do better, as we consider future goals and objectives and look forward to making our plans for the new year.



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Despite 2021's various challenges, I have been so inspired by the resilience and resolve of our community and feel especially grateful and proud of the many accomplishments of my staff, including:

- Re-opening the doors to our Clerk-Recorder's Office in Oakland, where we have been honored to serve over 30,000 in-person customers since June.
- Our numerous innovations to provide continued safe services to the public during the pandemic, including an electronic ticketing system and our award-winning online marriage service programs.
- Receiving the Government Finance Officers Association Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 38th year in a row.
- Playing a key role resulting in the rescue of millions of dollars in transfer taxes for Alameda County's cities that would have otherwise been lost without our



All County offices will be closed on Friday, **December 24** in observance of Christmas and Friday, **December 31** in observance of New Years Day.

Our Clerk-Recorder services are always open online. **Click here if you need to order vital documents.**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

- intervention.
- Engaging with all of you in the community through public programs and festivals from Berkeley and Emeryville in North County to Fremont in South County.

I could rattle off dozens of more examples of how my staff and I have been proud to serve you over this past year. But we're already focused on 2022, and I am excited to say that we're working on even more innovations and resources that we hope to announce in the New Year. (So stay tuned!)

I have much to be grateful for, and much to look forward to. I wish you and yours the happiest of holiday seasons and a bright New Year.

All the best,

Melissa Wilk

Thousands Pay Tribute to Remember Supervisor Wilma Chan



All of us at Alameda County continue to mourn the loss of Supervisor Wilma Chan. However, I was heartened to see such an outpouring of love from the community at the public tribute celebrating her life and accomplishments at the Oakland Museum.

The community-wide event was held on December 8 to honor her and her legacy programs and initiatives. The memorial was open to the public and attended by 2,700 people from across the state and online through a livestream broadcast.

Retired Alameda County Superior Court Judge Gordon Baranco presided over the ceremony. Speakers included Supervisor Chan's children, Jennifer Chan and Daren Chan; California State Controller Betty Yee; all five current Alameda County Board of Supervisors; Alameda County Administrator Susan Muranishi; and leaders from the health care community who worked closely with Supervisor Chan over her three decades in public service.

Among the attendees paying tribute were California Attorney General Rob Bonta, State Assemblymember Mia Bonta, State Senator Bob Wieckowski, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, mayors from throughout Alameda County, and dozens more elected and former elected officials from all over the Bay Area.

The admiration for Supervisor Chan's sense of purpose and selflessness was mentioned by all. Daren Chan fondly remembered his mother telling him, "Make life a little better for people less fortunate. That's what a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself, but for one's community."

The program concluded with uplifting renditions of two of Supervisor Chan's favorite songs, *Imagine* by John Lennon and *You've Got a Friend* by Carole King, performed by the Oakland Youth Chorus. Supervisor Dave Brown, who served as Supervisor Chan's chief of staff, capped the tribute by inviting current and former staff who worked for Supervisor Chan (dubbed the "Chan clan") onto the stage, and listing some of Supervisor Chan's greatest accomplishments. Supervisor Brown extolled Supervisor Chan as "the best elected official and best boss one could ever hope for."

The community is invited to share stories or photos from working with Supervisor Chan, tributes to Supervisor Chan's initiatives and policies, and other remembrances of her legacy in the online [Supervisor Wilma Chan Legacy Book](#) on Keeper. (You do not need a Keeper account to share a tribute and can post your tribute using the "guest" option.)

If you missed any part of the tribute or would like to watch it again, a recording of the full program is available [here](#).

The Wilma Chan Legacy Fund

With the support of Supervisor Chan's family, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved the [Wilma Chan Legacy Fund](#). Donations to the Legacy Fund will support grants to community non-profits and other eligible programs serving a public purpose in support of Supervisor Chan's legacy.

We remember and honor Supervisor Chan as a champion of community, a fierce leader, and a trusted colleague. She devoted her career to helping the underserved and uninsured, with a passion for children, families and seniors, early childhood education, environmental health, job creation and economic development.



If you would like to donate to Wilma Chan's Legacy Fund, [click here](#).

Stay Tuned: Our Annual Comprehensive Financial Report will be out soon!

One of the most important functions of the Auditor-Controller's Office is the financial reporting, conducted by our General Accounting Division that publishes the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Financial Report). This report contains a set of financial statements that presents data used to assess Alameda County's financial health. We anticipate publishing our

next Financial Report within the first few weeks of the New Year, and wanted to provide you a glimpse of what to anticipate based on the Financial Report we published earlier this year.

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report includes all funds of the County. The County provides a full range of services, including public protection; social services; health care for the indigent; construction and maintenance of highways, streets and other infrastructure; recreational activities; library services; and cultural events. In addition, the Financial Report includes activities of the Alameda Health System, the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association, the Alameda County Redevelopment Successor Agency, and certain special districts, financing authorities, and County service areas. The Financial Report also includes information on the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Financing Corporation and the Master Tobacco Settlement Corporation.



Some highlights from our most recent Annual Comprehensive Financial Report:

- The County's net position was more than \$2.1 billion at the close of Fiscal Year 2020. This means that assets and deferred outflows of resources of the County exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. The County's unrestricted net portion was more than \$400 million. This is the portion of net position without external restrictions on its use. We anticipate reporting similar results in the next Financial Report.
- County employees' pension and other post-employment benefits are managed under trust by the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA), except Fire Department employees. As of December 31, 2019, ACERA's fiscal year-end, the net position of ACERA and the other employee benefits trust totaled more than \$8.7 billion, representing an increase of nearly \$1.2 billion in net position from the prior year's net position.
- The leadership of Alameda County continues to employ sound fiscal judgment to address the severe economic issues it is facing. In the last three fiscal years, Alameda County has closed budget gaps totaling \$198.4 million while still providing essential services to the citizens of Alameda County.

Check out all of our Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports from the past 10 years on [our website](#). Be sure to look out for our next Financial Report, due out by mid-January!

**Volunteering for a Happy Thanksgiving
with Raising Leaders**



Melissa Wilk (right) with Ms. Davida Scott of Raising Leaders preparing Thanksgiving groceries for 70 families.

Shortly before Thanksgiving, Melissa was in Hayward filling grocery bags to help Ms. Davida Scott's Annual Thanksgiving Feed. Ms. Davida (as she is affectionately known to her students) is a teacher and creator of Raising Leaders, a program that provides at-risk young adults with educational support, leadership training, and career opportunities. The Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency has hosted several Raising Leaders interns since Raising Leaders expanded its internship to a County-wide program in 2020.

For eight years, Ms. Davida has raised money to feed the families who participate in Raising Leaders for her annual Thanksgiving Feed. This year, thanks to the generous support of Alameda County Board Supervisor Richard Valle, Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Association, Hayward Police Officers' Association, International Association of Fire Fighters Local 55, and many others, Ms. Davida provided essential Thanksgiving groceries for 70 families. Each of those families also received a family portrait taken by a professional photographer to help them celebrate the holiday.

"Ms. Davida is a guardian angel to the young people in Raising Leaders," said Melissa. "She not only guides her students through their educational development, she nurtures the entire support system of each and every student that comes through her program. I am very proud to play this small part for the big impact that Ms. Davida and Raising Leaders have on Alameda County."

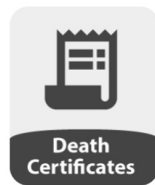
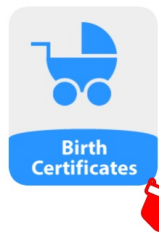
If you would like to help or donate to Raising Leaders, please email us at ACCR.info@acgov.org.



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Celebrating Diversity and Advocacy in Our Community

The Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency had the privilege of recognizing the impactful work of two organizations in November. In honor of their commitment and dedication to the most vulnerable and at-risk residents of Alameda County, our office was happy to present the students at Ilm Academy and the activists at Bay Area Community Health with certificates of recognition for their services.

Ilm Academy of Fremont's Young Leaders



On November 12, the City of Fremont's Ilm Academy celebrated the outstanding volunteer work of its students in spearheading the Blanket Collection Drive for underprivileged members of Alameda County. The event was hosted at the Islamic Center of Fremont with attendance from Congressman Ro Khanna, Fremont Mayor Lily Mei, Fremont Fire Chief Curtis Jacobson, and Fremont Police Chief Sean Washington.



Trans Vision's First Annual Gala

In partnership with the Oakland LGBTQ Center, Trans Vision/Bay Area Community Health hosted the Trans Giving Gala: *An evening of Remembrance and Thanks* at the Mission Paradise Banquet Hall in Hayward. The Gala

took place during Transgender Awareness week on November 18 and commemorated those we have lost to oppression, hate, and violence. The event featured guest speakers, dinner, an award ceremony, and special performances from Trans Vision members and allies.



Our office was proud to support these key events in celebration of all the great work they do for the community.

Celebrating and Supporting Local Businesses in Alameda County





The Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency was excited to celebrate the opening of two local businesses on November 10 and November 19.

Whisk Cake Creations celebrated the launch of their new café with Alameda Vice Mayor Melia Vella and the Alameda Chamber of Commerce at their ribbon cutting event on November 10. Community members and food vendors gathered to commemorate the launch while enjoying an assortment of delicious treats provided by Whisk Cake Creations. Located in the City of Alameda, the new café offers goods such as coffee, cakes by the slice, pastries, and much more to its community members.

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce celebrated the grand opening of Kids Care Dental & Orthodontics on November 19. Located in the City of Livermore, the incredible staff are dedicated to teaching children the importance of dental hygiene in a fun and memorable way with the goal of fostering a lifetime of healthy smiles.

Celebrating the Winter Holidays in Dublin

The City of Dublin hosted their 38th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting on December 2. Staff of the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency helped to welcome more than 700 visitors as they enjoyed the holiday festivities.

Residents from all over the Tri-Valley were welcomed to stroll through the Dublin Civic Center parking lot that was transformed into a Winter Wonderland. Visitors were entertained with carols sung by student choirs from the Dublin Unified School District and performances from local school bands.



A special thank you to Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez for recognizing our proud sponsorship of this beautiful community event.



To Our Customers: Thank you for your feedback!



I have to give both clerks that checked us in and performed our marriage ceremony a 100 stars!!!! They were so polite, excellent communication, understanding and professional... Thank you Alameda County Clerk's Office for making our day extra special with no added stress. -Paulina P. (Paulina and her partner pictured, left.)

We went in on September 10th to get our [marriage] license and it was really quick and easy. All you need to bring is you & your partner, reference number, and IDs. We were able to get married on Sept 24th... and it was such an amazing experience. The man at the ticket window, the security guard, and the woman that completed our marriage license were all helpful and welcoming. Also wanted to give a big shout out to the woman who performed our ceremony named Myrna. She was so

accommodating and wanted to make sure our ceremony was perfect by asking us if we preferred or wanted anything in particular. My in-laws are Spanish speaking so Myrna offered to translate for them throughout the ceremony which I thought was really sweet of her. Thank you to all there that made our day very special. - C.J. from Union City

If you have any feedback for our Office, we would love to hear from you! Please email us at ACCR.info@acgov.org.

Celebrating the Holidays Throughout the County



Melissa with Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert.



Melissa (left) with Livermore Chamber CEO & President Dawn Argula (center).

While the day-to-day operations of the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder's Office keeps me busy, I really enjoy getting out in the community, especially to celebrate the holidays.

Thank you to Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert for hosting his holiday party in Pleasanton and organizing a toy and grocery drive. The outpouring of generosity from the party participants filled the room with new toys and future holiday meals for children and families in need in Alameda County.

I also want to thank Dawn Argula, CEO and President of the Livermore Chamber of Commerce, for hosting Livermore's business leaders at their holiday mixer at the Locanda Wine Bar. Dawn has been instrumental in leading the Tri-Valley's business community through the economic challenges these past two years.

It's been wonderful to enjoy this holiday season with friends throughout Alameda County once again. If you have a community event in Alameda County, please [reach out to us](#) if you could use our support. I'll see you in 2022!

QUESTIONS FOR OUR AGENCY?

Are there upcoming community events that you would like us to attend? Do you have a specific question you would like to ask?

[Email](#) Melissa Wilk or follow her on [Twitter](#) to let her know

what questions we can answer and how we can support your efforts.



STAY IN TOUCH

Keep up-to-date on important information from the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency by following Melissa on Twitter ([@MelissaWilkACCR](https://twitter.com/MelissaWilkACCR)).

If this email was forwarded to you, subscribe to our newsletter by emailing us at ACCR.info@acgov.org.



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