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OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER NOEL GALLO

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DOMINGUITA VELASCO, WHO PASSED ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015 AT THE AGE OF 114 YEARS OLD. MS. VELASCO WAS A MOTHER, A GRANDMOTHER, A GREAT-GRANDMOTHER WHO PROVIDED LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO THE CITY OF OAKLAND

WHEREAS, Dominguita Velasco, whose birth name was "Dominga", but known to many who knew her as "Dominguita, Oakland's godmother" arrived in West Oakland in 1920 with her family, fleeing civil unrest in Mexico at the end of the Revolution, witnessing the last battle between followers of Pancho Villa and the government Federales in Ciudad Juarez as she and her family crossed the border; and

WHEREAS, Dominguita Velasco and her family were some of the first Mexican immigrants to settle in West Oakland, and she was one of the first Latina business owners in the city of Oakland, operating two popular Mexican restaurants on 7th Street that became gathering places for informal neighborhood groups; and

WHEREAS, those groups eventually grew into today's Unity Council and the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation, which anchor the Fruitvale district and are major forces in the at-large Oakland community ; and

WHEREAS, Dominguita Velasco was a resident of Posada De Colores Senior home for over 30 years; her unique kindness and love lighted up and enriched the lives of all those who had the honor of knowing her; and

WHEREAS, Dominguita Velasco will be remembered for her exemplary dedication to helping others, and for being held in the highest esteem by countless people of all ages in the Fruitvale community for her giving, encouragement, and willingness to enjoy life with family and friends; she was once quoted as saying the secret to her longevity was to "stay happy"; and

WHEREAS, Dominguita Velasco was recognized for her contributions at an Oakland City Hall ceremony in 2004; the City Council honored her for more than nine decades of service with numerous resolutions, the last one earlier this year when she turned 114; and

WHEREAS, in appreciation of Dominguita's passion, dedication and commitment to helping others, The Unity Council's Casa Velasco Senior Housing in the Fruitvale district bears her name; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That **Dominga "Dominguita" Velasco** will truly be missed and remembered for her kindness, admirable generosity, countless accomplishments, dedication and commitment to serving the community, and enriching the lives of many people in the community; and, we, the undersigned Oakland City Councilmembers, extend our sincere condolences and prayers to Dominguita's family and friends.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2015

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLEN, KALB, KAPLAN,
 REID AND PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: _____
 LATONDA SIMMONS
 City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
 of the City of Oakland, California