  
City Attorney

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**OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL**

RESOLUTION NO. 83258 C.M.S

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER NADEL AND PRESIDENT REID**

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING BASKETBALL HALL OF FAMER BILL RUSSELL  
ON RECEIVING AMERICA’S MEDAL OF FREEDOM IN RECOGNITION OF HIS  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the legendary Boston Celtic team captain, William “Bill” Russell, began playing basketball at local venues including deFremery Recreation Center, Hoover Jr. High and McClymonds High Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Russell went on to become a five-time winner of the NBA Most Valuable Player Award and was the centerpiece of the Boston Celtics dynasty that won eleven NBA championships during his thirteen-year career; and

**WHEREAS**, HBO Sports hailed Mr. Russell as “The Greatest Winner of the 20th Century” and Sport Illustrated named him “The Greatest Team Player on the Greatest Team of All Time”; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1967, Mr. Russell broke the color barrier, becoming the first African-American coach in American major league sports; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Russell has been an aggressive advocate for civil rights and human rights; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Russell has served as a global ambassador of basketball, visiting and hosting clinics in over fifty countries on six continents, sharing his love for the sport; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Russell has supported and contributed to numerous youth programs and scholarships; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Russell’s achievements and work off the court continues to make him a true winner and the ultimate team player; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Russell is now being awarded America’s Medal of Freedom in recognition of his contributions to the civil rights movement by President Barack Obama; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alameda County Youth Development, Inc., The Joe Morgan Youth Foundation with support of the City of Oakland and Alameda County will host a gala tribute to

Mr. Russell on Thursday March 24, 2011 at 6:00 pm at the George P. Scotlan Memorial Convention Center; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the City of Oakland commends Mr. William "Bill" Russell on receiving America's Medal of Freedom congratulates him on his many accomplishments on and off the basketball court.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, MAR 15 2011, 20      

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**


AYES - ~~Brooks~~, BRUNNER, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, ~~REYNOLDS~~, NADEL, SCHAAF, and PRESIDENT REID - 6

NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

Excused - Brooks, Kernighan - 2

ATTEST:   
LaTonda Simmons  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California