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CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DESLEY BROOKS

ADOPT A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING AND HONORING BETTY REID SOSKIN FOR HER COURAGEOUS, INNOVATIVE, GROUNDBREAKING WORK; WHICH IS TRULY INSPIRATIONAL; HAS PROMOTED POSITIVE CHANGE, AND HAS UPLIFTED THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND THE NATION IN THE AREAS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, ADVOCACY, ARTS AND CULTURE, BUSINESS AND FAITH.

Whereas, Ms. Betty Reid Soskin is an American icon and a national treasure, and at the age of 96, is the oldest National Park Ranger in the country's history whose work at the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California has sparked a new way of organizing our national parks; and

Whereas, Ms. Betty Reid Soskin is a living embodiment of American history in general and African-American history in particular and, her talks on those subjects, regularly attract standing-room only crowds both at the park and at other venues; and

Whereas, Ms. Betty Reid Soskin was officially recognized for her inspirational work by then-President Barack Obama, as well as by an uncounted number of organizations and prominent individuals across the Bay Area and the nation; and

Whereas, Ms. Betty Reid Soskin is beginning to be appreciated by the general public as they get to know her talents as a writer, a composer, and a singer; and

Whereas, Ms. Betty Reid Soskin is most associated with Richmond, where the Rosie The Riveter Park is located, or with Berkeley, where she lived for many years, co-founded and operated a

successful record store business both with her husband and on her own, and served as a legislative aid; and

Whereas, Ms. Betty Reid Soskin, and what is less known about her is that her roots are actually in East Oakland, where her family moved from Detroit in 1927, as she was a graduate of East Oakland's Castlemont High School, and her early education, both formal and informal, and the formation of her political and social philosophies all took place in Oakland, while her love for the city has never waned; and

Whereas, The City of Oakland gives official honor to the life and legacy of Ms. Betty Reid Soskin and, in turn, gives a much-deserved honor to itself for having been the formation ground of this remarkable American woman; now therefore be it:

RESOLVED: That, on behalf of the Oakland City Council, the undersigned, hereby commends **Ms. Betty Reid Soskin** for her dedication and commitment to serving the citizens of locally and internationally, and for enriching the lives of many people; and be it:

FURTHER RESOLVED: That, the City of Oakland, congratulates Ms. Betty Reid Soskin on the release of her much-anticipated autobiography, *Sign My Name To Freedom* published by Hay House press, and hereby declares that **Tuesday, March 20, 2018**, be:

“Ms. Betty Reid Soskin Day”

In the city of Oakland, and do encourage all of its residents to acknowledge the day accordingly.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES -

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

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California

Date of Attestation:
