

2014 SEP -8 AM 9: 04

Oakland City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR JEAN QUAN, COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY, and COUNCILMEMBER LIBBY SCHAAF.

ADOPT A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING OAKLAND TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE WEST AND ITS FOUNDER/DIRECTOR MR. BRUCE BUCKELEW, WHO HAS PROVIDED FREE HOME COMPUTERS TO AT-RISK OAKLAND UNIFIED MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SINCE 1995.

WHEREAS, Bruce Buckelew grew up in La Mesa, California and then attended the University of California, Berkeley where he was involved in the Civil Rights Movement, earned a Bachelor's of Science in Industrial Engineering, and was a member of the Industrial Engineering Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Buckelew retired from his position as a Systems Engineer at IBM in 1991, and soon after began volunteering at Oakland Technical High School, inspiring him to create an organization that would abate the inequity plaguing Oakland's most distressed neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Buckelew founded Oakland Technology Exchange in 1995 with the intention of bridging the digital divide in Oakland by equipping classrooms with computers and ensuring students have access to their own home computers; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Bruce Buckelew expanded the organization's offerings into Oakland Technology Exchange West (OTX West), a large multi-purpose site that provides computer training, technology support and affordable computers to Oakland families; and

WHEREAS, the program is designed to provide comprehensive computer access to disadvantaged students, who otherwise would have no access to computers, as only 15 percent of urban students have access to computers at home compared to 80 percent of suburban students; and

WHEREAS, OTX West understands that in today's world, the use of computers and the Internet is vital in order to join the new age of technology that motivates today's economy; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Buckelew recognized the racial disparity of computer access for students at school and at home, which motivated him to give back to the Oakland community by refurbishing surplus computers, as well as educating families and providing ongoing access and support to those who have received a computer from OTX West; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, OTX West has distributed over 35,000 computers to the Oakland community and has worked directly with the Oakland Unified School District, the City of Oakland, Oakland Housing Authority and many other organizations; and

WHEREAS, OTX West has diverted over 700 tons of e-waste from landfills to be reused for educational purposes in Oakland's schools, recreation centers, and the homes of thousands of low-income Oakland students; and

WHEREAS, OTX West has positively impacted the Oakland community by providing student access to computers and making it their mission to eliminate the technology gap that often affects Oakland residents; and, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Oakland City Council is hereby honored to thank Bruce Buckelew and Oakland Technology Exchange West for their many years of dedication to the Oakland community, and be it

RESOLVED: that the Oakland City Council hereby recognizes September 23 as Bruce Buckelew Day in the City of Oakland and encourages all Oaklanders to commemorate his passion for using technology as a tool for education and changing the world, as well as Bruce's inspiring tenacity to close the digital divide.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN,
SCHAAF, REID AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -
ABSENT -
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

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