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City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LARRY REID AND COUNCILMEMBER
LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

**RESOLUTION IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH
HONORING THE FOLLOWING COURAGEOUS AFRICAN AMERICAN
INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS, WHO THROUGH THEIR
INNOVATIVE, GROUNDBREAKING WORK, HAVE PROMOTED
POSITIVE CHANGE AND UPLIFT FOR THE CITY OF OAKLAND IN
THE FIELDS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, ADVOCACY, ARTS AND
CULTURE, BUSINESS AND FAITH**

WHEREAS, Dr Carter Godwin Woodson, an African-American historian, author, journalist and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, recognized that African-American contributions were overlooked, ignored, and suppressed by history textbooks and educators, dedicated his life to the discovery, research, preservation and promotion of African American contributions to the U S; and

WHEREAS, in 1925, Dr Woodson pioneered the celebration of "Negro History Week," to honor Black American achievement and contribution in the U S and the world through the designation of the week between the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, and in 1976, the official commemoration was extended to the entire month of February and renamed to Black History Month which is now celebrated throughout the United States, Canada, and the U K; and

WHEREAS, Oakland is one of the most ethnically diverse major cities in the United States, and has been known since the Great Migration in the 1940s - when thousands of Southern laborers moved to California - as an epicenter of African-American life, culture and community; and

WHEREAS, the individuals and institutions we honor today have made significant contributions to the City of Oakland, through their dedication to the celebration, expansion, and preservation of the unique contributions of African Americans and these historic contributions are woven into the fabric of American history in the City of Oakland, the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, District 1 is honoring **Tiffany E. Grant King**, or Ms. Tiffany, as she is often called, is an active member of the Memorial Tabernacle Church in North

Oakland, where she spearheads many educational community programs and family activities. Among them are First Friday Family Fun Night, a monthly event encouraging, educating, and celebrating young people, parents and families, and Youth Going Green, a youth-focused waste reduction program in Oakland, which helps elementary, middle school, and high school students foster a sense of ecological awareness and environmental stewardship in and beyond the North Oakland community. Tiffany received an MS in Mechanical Engineering from University of California, Berkeley and runs her own management consulting company in Oakland. Dependable, professional, creative, and possessing a go-getter attitude, Ms. Tiffany exemplifies steadfast commitment to our city and to the mission of the Memorial Tabernacle Church, including "to bring healing to the brokenhearted and deliverance to the oppressed; to be a center of genuine concern for those in need, a sanctuary of community worship that is neither shallow nor restrained, a spiritual home where members find an expression of precious love for one another." We thank Ms. Tiffany Grant King for all of her rich, continuing work for our community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office and District 2 are honoring: **Joe Hawkins and Jeff Myers** who are the co-founders of the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center. **Joe Hawkins** is the Center's first Executive Director. He is also a noted Oakland-based community organizer who has been at the forefront of LGBTQ advocacy in the Bay Area for almost 30 years. Joe is a seasoned non-profit executive, event producer and social entrepreneur who first came to national prominence as a gay activist and one of the first out gay men to appear as a guest on the Oprah Winfrey Show defending his right to parent his then 6-year-old son. Among his many accomplishments, Joe was the Director of Administration for AIDS Project of The East Bay and served on the Ryan White Planning Committee, a founding member and organizer of the East Bay AIDS Walk, Regional Director of Innovative Housing in Marin County, and CEO of OpNet Community Ventures in San Francisco. He is the creator of many LGBTQ events and was the lead organizer and a founding member of Oakland Pride, where he served as Co-Chair for the first two years. He has also been honored as a Grand Marshal of both the San Francisco and Oakland Pride parades. **Jeff Myers** is the current Board President and co-founder of the Oakland LGBTQ Center. Jeff has been active as a community volunteer. He served as a member of the Bay Area Big Brother/Big Sister Association and volunteered for the LGBTQ community in multiple capacities. He was the volunteer coordinator for Oakland Pride, served as a co-chair of community outreach, Pride Event Volunteer Coordinator, and he also helped to organize the Oakland Pride contingent for the SF Pride Parade working with the Office of the Oakland Mayor. He served in the U.S. Navy for 11 years as a Certified Religious Program Specialist in the Chaplain's office of the Marine corps and has been a neurologic surgery scrub nurse for the past 16 years; and

WHEREAS, District 3 is honoring: **Diamano Coura** a nonprofit cultural organization dedicated to the preservation, education, and appreciation of traditional West African music, dance, theater, and culture. Directors Zak Diouf and Naomi Diouf founded Diamano Coura in 1975 and ever since have passionately implemented their mission through performances, youth workshops, community outreach and partnership programs. Diamano Coura strives to portray West African music and dance specifically as forms not simply for entertainment or exhibition, but rather, means by which

communities educate, communicate, organize, and preserve their ancestral past. Diamano Coura, in the Senegalese Wolof language, means "those who bring the message." The company is an integral member of the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, were a founding advocate for the Black Arts Movement and Business District, and have improved the lives of many thousands of Oaklanders over their history; and

WHEREAS, District 4 is honoring: **Impact Hub Oakland** and its co-founders, Konda Mason and Ashara Ekundayo, who have significantly contributed to and enriched Oakland through their work to create space that supports and connects socially engaged changemakers and social entrepreneurs in creating community and bringing their projects to life as they work toward creating a better world. Ms. Ekundayo is a cultural strategist and independent curator who currently holds Advisory Board positions with KQED Arts, Black Girls Code, and the Oakland Public Conservatory of Music, and has served as a Fellow with Green For All, Emerging Arts Professionals, Schools Without Borders and Institute For The Future. Ashara's commitment to social transformation is informed by an intersectional framework that aims to expand the influence and impact of arts and culture on racial equity, gender+justice, and environmental literacy. Ms. Mason's career roots are in the entertainment industry, as a Grammy winning artist manager in London, an Academy Award nominated film producer in Hollywood, and an Off-Broadway theater producer in New York. Konda has since turned her attention to creating sustainable personal and global living solutions. Her love for Oakland is the driving force behind the work she does to continue this work; she has used her vision to see a genuinely just and sustainable world, to guide her work in Oakland and abroad; and

WHEREAS, District 5 is honoring: **Nina Tanner Smith** was born in Fayette, Mississippi and at the age of 9 moved to California. In 1968 Nina began her chosen professional journey as the Director of the Coretta King Children's Center. During her tenure at the King Center she obtained her Bachelor's Degree and developed the skills and practices needed to effectively operate a nonprofit entity. In early 1972, a group of low-income families were given a 30-day notice that their child-care center was closing in Oakland. Leaning on her childhood love for her community, she assembled a team of parents and stakeholders and founded the 24-Hour Oakland Parent Children Center. This agency was incorporated as a nonprofit in 1973 and continues to serve low-income families. Nina's love for her community crosses all types of boundaries: from providing early childhood education to providing shelter to families. To date, the 24-Hour Center has prepared over 3500 children to successfully begin their educational journey and housed over 5,600 women and children. Nina also created a 24-Hour Scholarship fund and a 403b retirement fund for her staff. Nina Tanner Smith continues to engage with the community wholeheartedly. Serving is her call and duty; and

WHEREAS, District 6 is honoring: **Elizabeth Gilmore** who has has been active in the Bay Area religious community for more than four decades, reaching out to help others through her music and wise counsel, advising leaders in the religious community; serving many non-profit boards as well as the Alameda County Grand Jury. For nearly 34 years Liz Gilmore has been a leader within the East Oakland/Hayward section of NCNW, serving as president, starting in 1984 and continuing for an unprecedented four-year term. Liz Gilmore's dedication to her community earned her a special

recognition/plaque from U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee. She was a trusted adviser and political strategist for her husband (Carter Gilmore) who rose from custodial worker to personnel manager, while also advancing from community organizer, to civil rights leader, and to become the first African American elected to the Oakland City Council, where he left a treasured legacy of ordinances and policies designed to improve quality of life in Oakland. She is most proud of the family she has raised (all who share and exhibit that dedication to community service) and the contributions that she and her husband have made to improve their community; and

WHEREAS, District 7 is honoring: **Leonard “Googie” Kirtley, Jr** who played baseball in the Negro League and was employed by the City of Oakland in the Public Works Department, where he retired after 35 years of dedicated service, was an avid and passionate golfer, and held the positions of President of the Chabot Men’s Club and the Galbreth Men’s Club, was a Green Coat Board member of the Northern California Golf Association for three years, and held many other positions in the golfing arena, and has been called the Godfather of Golf in the Greater Bay Area, whose leadership and dedication enabled young men and women throughout the Bay Area to become responsible adults and to grow and to learn patience, kindness, and dedication through the game of golf, and founded, “Googie” and Friends, where he paved the way with philanthropic efforts for 5 Junior Golf Academy’s for over 60 years; and

WHEREAS, the At-Large District is honoring: **John Jones III**, an East Oakland resident, activist, organizer, leader and community organizer with Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice. Through his personal stories and experiences, Mr. Jones has inspired many hundreds of people and youth to become stronger individuals and bring positivity to the community. As a returning citizen, Mr. Jones paved his own path when there seemed to be none available, he has led many through this path of success and continues to be a lighthouse for many others. John Jones III tirelessly fights for what is humane and what is right, some of those fights are for affordable housing, housing our homeless, better standards of treatment for those being held in detention facilities, and demanding more equitable treatment from law enforcement, to name a few. It is with great gratitude and appreciation to honor Mr. John Jones III for his courageous, innovative and groundbreaking work to promote a stronger and better Oakland; and

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby honors and commends the following individuals in recognition of Black History and Heritage Month 2016:

- Tiffany E. Grant King
- Joe Hopkins
- Jeff Myers
- Diamano Coura
- Impact Hub Oakland
- Nina Tanner Smith
- Elizabeth Gilmore
- Leonard “Googie” Kirtley, Jr
- John Jones III

And be it;

FURTHER RESOLVED: That these African American individuals and organizations are recognized for their courageous spirits, their innovation to address community challenges, and their steadfast commitment to social change, which have yielded great results that have strengthened, enhanced, and improved the City of Oakland and the lives of all its residents.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL-WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLÉN, 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