

13 NOV -7 PM 3:52

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS

Lynette Gibson McElhaney and Libby Schaaf

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH AND SALUTING BLACK ADOPTION PLACEMENT AND RESEARCH CENTER, ONE OF TWO AGENCIES IN CALIFORNIA THAT SPECIALIZES IN FINDING PERMANENT HOMES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN AND OTHER WAITING CHILDREN, FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE OAKLAND-BAY AREA COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, November is National Adoption Awareness Month, a time during which this country focuses on the many children who are waiting for permanent homes and the vital importance of supporting public and private agencies that provide services to waiting children and help families to adopt them or offer them temporary homes; and

WHEREAS, the Black Adoption Research and Placement and Research Center ("BAPRC") was established in 1983 and this year marks the 30th anniversary of BAPRC's diligent and committed work providing permanent homes for waiting children; and

WHEREAS, BAPRC is a private, non-profit agency that provides services to families residing in 14 Northern California counties; and

WHEREAS, BAPRC is a licensed adoption and foster family agency dedicated to recruiting permanent loving families from the community from which the disproportionate number of waiting children come - the African American community - and BAPRC has placed 55,218 children in permanent loving homes during its 30 years of operation; and

WHEREAS, BAPRC places an emphasis on advocating on behalf of children with special needs who might otherwise spend their childhoods in foster care; and

WHEREAS, Gloria King, the agency's Executive Director, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Masters of Science in Clinical Counseling, and has led the agency's mission for 23 years and Oakland City Attorney, Barbara J. Parker, is the president of the BAPRC board; and

WHEREAS, there continues to be a crisis in America because hundreds of thousands of children are without permanent homes and California leads all states with over 100,000 children in out-of-home placements, the overwhelming majority of whom are of African descent; and

WHEREAS, we must redouble our efforts to address this crisis based on the following facts: (1) between 1983 and 2000, the number of children in foster care in California increased by over 300%; (2) in Alameda County, 66% of the waiting children are African American; (3) in San Francisco County, 66% of the waiting children are African American; (4) older children are less likely to be adopted; (5) 62% of children in the California Youth Authority are children who have been in foster care; (6) youth between 13 and 18 years of age comprise roughly one-third of the foster care population, despite the fact they represent only about 12% of the U.S. population; (7) 62% of children in the California Youth Authority are children who have been in foster care; and (8) the majority of the young women and girls who are victims of the prostitution and sex trafficking on Oakland's streets are in or came out of the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, children are the future of this nation and our world and these beautiful children are strong, resilient treasures who will realize their great potential and make important contributions to the world especially if they have stable, nurturing families; and

WHEREAS, as the number of children entering the system continues to grow at an alarming rate, many more qualified families are urgently needed; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland commemorates National Adoption Awareness Month; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland and the Oakland City Council salute and applaud the Black Adoption Placement and Research Center for the vital work it has performed for thirty years, providing permanent homes for waiting children; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland declares November 20, 2013 Black Adoption Placement and Research Center Day in recognition of the agency's Thirtieth Anniversary.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTIONS -

ATTEST:

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