

2017 MAY 25 AM 8:35

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City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS KALB AND CAMPBELL WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING ALL MEMBERS OF THE OAKLAND WILDFIRE PREVENTION ASSESSMENT DISTRICT (WPAD) ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND SINCE 2004.

WHEREAS, on October 20, 1991 a firestorm ravaged the Oakland Hills, claiming 25 lives, and destroying more than 3,500 homes; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD) was formed by a ballot measure in 2003 by the city to help prevent wildfires in the Oakland Hills; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Oakland Hills High Fire Severity Zone approved a 10-year parcel tax starting in 2004 to fund goat grazing, road-side clearance and other vegetation management efforts on 1400 acres of city parcels within the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD); and

WHEREAS, the approved ballot measure called for the formation of the WPAD Citizens Advisory Committee to oversee budget and expenditures of WPAD funds; and

WHEREAS, for the last fourteen years a group of dedicated volunteers represented the North Hills community by managing the assessment district that includes the wooded areas throughout the Oakland Hills from the borders of Berkeley to San Leandro; and

WHEREAS, the City's 416 properties and 300 miles of public access roadways are situated in 200 geographic locations within the Oakland Hills; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer board leaders for the District managed approximately \$1.7 million annually to ensure vegetation management of city owned properties, including roadside clearing, yearly goat grazing, the roving fire patrols on high-fire danger days, public education and outreach, and roadside chipping services at no additional cost to district residents within the district; and

WHEREAS, over the past 13 years, 38 residents served as volunteer members of the WPAD Citizen's Advisory Committee, sharing their professional expertise as fire fighters, project managers, park stewards and wildfire prevention advocates in advising the Oakland Fire Department's Vegetation Management Unit on policy, priorities and effective and efficient use of WPAD funds to reduce the risk of the spread of fires on City parcels and open spaces; and

WHEREAS, in addition to managing the WPAD funds, these volunteers continuously and tirelessly advocated for effective fire prevention measures on behalf of Oakland residents within the city; and

WHEREAS, an effort to renew the WPAD in 2013 failed by just 66 votes, eliminating the parcel tax as a funding source for creating defensible space through vegetation management on city properties; and

WHEREAS, WPAD funding will be exhausted or encumbered as of June 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the WPAD Advisory Committee's last official business meeting is June 15, 2017; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council, the Mayor and the City of Oakland extend their sincere appreciation for the countless hours donated by the 38 volunteers of the WPAD Advisory Committee who served with passion, dedication and commitment towards reducing the risk of the spread of wildfire in the Oakland Hills, and recognize the following exemplary citizens for their many years of public service:

Lin Barron (D4)
Dinah Benson (D7)
Ken Benson (D7, Chair)
Carol Berneau (D4)
Lars Beyer(D6)
Fred Booker (D1, Chair)
Chuck Bowles (At Large)
Jill Broadhurst (D4)
Susan Burnett (D6)
Chris Candell (D4)
Glen Dahlbacka (D6)
Robert Faber (D4)
Ben Fay (At-Large)
Dee McDonough (Mayoral Appointee)

Don Mitchell (D7)
Mike Petouhoff (D4)
Barry Pilger (D1, Chair)
Gordon Piper (Mayoral Appointee)
Susan Piper D1, Chair)
Ernest Robinson (Mayoral Appointee)
Bob Sieben (D1, Chair)
Ken Thames (D4)
Mary Thiesen (D4, Secretary)
Sean Walsh (D6)
Allene Warren (D7)
James Williams, Sr. (Mayor's Appointee)
Doug Wong (D4, At-large, Mayoral Appointee)

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