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Oakland City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember Nancy Nadel

RESOLUTION HONORING THE OFFICE OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND RECOGNIZING ITS HISTORY AND SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES ACHIEVED DURING THE PAST CENTURY

WHEREAS, in 1909 the Playground Division was established as a part of Public Works with an allocation of \$600 for vacation programs at two schools, followed by an agreement with the Board of Education for year-round use of school grounds and the opening of playgrounds at deFremery, Bushrod and Bayview (Raimondi) in 1910, and a \$1 million bond issue to purchase lands around Lake Merritt; and

WHEREAS, in 1911 the City Charter was revised, creating the Board of Playground Directors as an independent body empowered to operate a department; and

WHEREAS, 1912 through 1919 saw the opening of two boathouses, the Oakland Municipal Auditorium, Mosswood Park, Edoff Bandstand in Lakeside Park, the creation of the Oakland Municipal Band and the Industrial Athletic Association, acquisition of Joaquin Miller Park, and the first presentation of the Children's Holiday Pageant; and

WHEREAS, from 1921 to 1941 the Recreation Department acquired and operated two family and children's summer camps outside of Oakland at Tuolumne and Feather River at Quincy, built the Bowling Greens at Lakeside Park, established the Municipal Rose Garden, completed Woodminster Theater and Cascades and playgrounds at Wolfenden, Arroyo Viejo, Montclair (WPA Projects), and assumed operation of Lions Pool and Dimond Tennis Courts; and

WHEREAS, 1943 through 1949 brought the acquisition of Sidney Snow Zoo, a \$1 million bond issue to extend and modernize recreation facilities, completion of Trial and Show Gardens in Lakeside Park, and Sequoia Lodge and Horse Arena in Joaquin Miller Park, establishment of senior citizen programs and a disabled children's camp, the completion of four new swimming pools and the opening of the North Oakland Recreation Center and Studio One for Arts and Crafts; and

WHEREAS, from 1950 to 1959 the Board of Playground Commissioners became the Recreation Commission, the Recreation Department acquired Knowland Park and Zoo, Elizabeth Sanborn (Carmen Flores) Clubhouse, Rotary Science Center, Joaquin Miller Ranger Station, Leona Lodge, Lafayette Square, Morcom Rose Garden and Amphitheatre, San Antonio Park, and Franklin Plaza, Woodminister Light Opera Series was created, Lakeside Park Garden Center was dedicated, the Sailboat House was remodeled, Children's Fairyland in Lakeside Park opened, and recreation center buildings were completed at Arroyo Viejo, Montclair, Dimond and Brookfield; and

WHEREAS, the 1960's saw the acquisition of Dunsmuir House, opening of new recreation centers at Poplar, Franklin, and Tassafaronga, the expansion of facilities at Brookfield, Mosswood, Bushrod, Montclair, Arroyo Viejo, deFremery, Lockhaven and Sheffield Village, dedication of the Japanese Gardens, Brookdale Lodge, Shafer Field and Harrison Railroad Park, reconstruction of Davis Tennis Stadium and completion of tennis courts at Montclair, completion of Galbraith Golf Course and expansion of the golf course at Lake Chabot, development of Burkhalter recreation area and the Lake Merritt Channel Park; culminating with the merger of the Parks and Recreation Departments into the new Office of Parks and Recreation in 1969; and

WHEREAS, the 1970's gave Oakland the opening of recreation programs in park clubhouses at Brookdale, San Antonio and Sanborn, dedication of Estuary Park, Columbian Gardens, and Madison Square Park, acquisition of Shepherd Canyon Park, and construction of new recreation centers at Verdese Carter, Manzanita and Lincoln Square; and

WHEREAS, the 1980's brought the establishment of the non-profit corporation, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation, the opening of Rainbow Recreation Center, commencement of boating programs for the disabled, rehabilitation of several facilities, pools, ball fields and tennis courts through grants from the State of California Measure AA; and

WHEREAS, the 1990's included the passage of Measure K, a \$60 million General Obligation Bond, which made possible the acquisition of open space, the building of two senior centers, \$10 million for the Oakland Zoo, and renovation of more than 75 recreation facilities; and in 1996, Measure I, a \$45 million General Obligation Bond made possible renovation and earthquake retrofitting and upgrading of many recreation facilities, and the Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation managed funding to renovate 33 playgrounds to be in compliance with 2000 safety standards; and

WHEREAS, the beginning of the 21st century has brought forth Measure DD Bond voted in 2002, which approved \$198 million to establish Clean Water, Safe Parks and Open Space Trust Fund to revitalize Oakland's natural resources and community facilities including enhancing Lake Merritt and the Lake Merritt Channel connecting Lake Merritt to the Estuary Waterfront, restoration of creeks, protection of natural waterway habitat from the Oakland Hills to the estuary and many water-related resources for future generations; and saw the hiring of the first female Director in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Parks and Recreation "Plays With A Purpose" - to expose children, youth, seniors and families to life long learning experiences and aims to, Enlighten, Empower and Encourages Educational Excellence through Recreational Experiences; and

WHEREAS, OPR enthusiastically invites residents and visitors to “Come Out and Play the OPR Way,” and enjoy beautiful outdoor Oakland, with its 140 plus parks, 24 recreation centers, nine community gardens, citywide tennis courts, athletic fields, refreshing pools, two boating centers, three golf courses, seven enterprise facilities and two cultural art studios, and an array of programs and services; and

WHEREAS, these highlights will be specifically celebrated at the 50th Anniversary Jubilee of the Lakeside Park Garden Center and Gardens at Lake Merritt on June 7, 2009 and at a Family Fun Day at deFremery Recreation Center and Park on July 25, 2009, celebrating a Century of recreation programs throughout Oakland, all of which are deserving of recognition by the citizens of Oakland; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Mayor and City Council hereby congratulate the Office of Parks and Recreation, members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, the OPR Board of Associates, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation, the 100th Year Anniversary Committee members, and the staff and volunteers of the Public Works Agency, for their continued dedication to the citizens of Oakland; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the month of July is hereby declared National Recreation and Parks Month and the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation urges all residents to Come Out and Play the OPR Way for another 100 years of Creating Community Through Families, Programs and Services

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, AND
PRESIDENT BRUNNER

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST:

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