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OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.
INTRODUCED BY VICE MAYOR LARRY E. REID
COUNCIL MEMBER LIBBY SCHAAF

**RESOLUTION HONORING AND RECOGNIZING FATHER JAY MATHEWS ON HIS 40th
ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD, AND FOR SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF SAINT
BENEDICT'S CHURCH FOR 25 YEARS**

WHEREAS James Vernon Matthews II, on May 3, 1974, was ordained as the first African-American Catholic priest in Northern California, and, Father Jay Mathews was born in 1948 in Berkeley, California, to James Vernon and Yvonne Marie Feast Matthews, and spent his early school years in Albany and in Oakland, graduating from Skyline High in 1966, and later receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities and Philosophy from St. Patrick College, Mountain View, California in 1970, and a Master of Divinity degree from St. Patrick Seminary, Menlo Park, and, in 1973, was a candidate for the Doctorate of Ministry at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley from 1977 to 1979, and completed his sabbatical studies in Church History at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 2000, and;

WHEREAS, Father Jay Mathews has had pastoral responsibilities which have included, Pastor of St. Benedict Church, Oakland, since 1989, Administrator of St. Cornelius Church in Richmond, California, Administrator and Associate Pastor at St. Cyril Church in Oakland and All Saints Church in Hayward; Associate Pastor at St. Lonis Bertrand Church, Oakland, Vicar for Black Catholics and In-Residence at St. Anthony Church in Oakland; Deacon at St. Columba, Oakland, Teacher at Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland and Serra High School in San Mateo, California, and Youth Minister of the Diocese of Oakland, and;

WHEREAS, Father Jay Mathews has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Outstanding Community Service, the Marcus Foster Educational Institute's Distinguished Alumni Award (1983), the Rose Casanave Service Award of the Black Catholic Vicariate, as well as community service awards from the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver, the Bay Area Chapter of Xavier University, New Orleans, Alumni Association, the Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, the United States House of Representatives, the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, Alameda County board of Supervisors, and on May 4, 1999, was entered into the United States Congressional Record by Congress member Barbara Lee, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, and;

WHEREAS, Father Jay Mathews presently serves as pastor of St. Benedict Church, Dean of Deanery 4, a regent at the Cathedral of Christ the Light and at Bishop O'Dowd High School, a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Presbyteral Council and the Pastoral Leadership Placement Board of the Diocese of Oakland, Western States District Chaplain of the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver, and the executive team of the Oakland Education Committee, so.

THEREFORE, I, Larry E. Reid, Vice Mayor for the City of Oakland, and Council Member for the 7th District, and I, Libby SchAAF, Council Member for the 4th District, on behalf of the Oakland City Council, do hereby honor and recognize, on this his 40th Anniversary of Priesthood, and his 25th year as Pastor of Saint Benedicts Church, the accomplishments, and dedication and love, of, Father James (Jay) Mathews, so, therefore be it:

RESOLVED: That May 6th, 2014 in the City of Oakland be dedicated: "Father Jay Mathews Day"

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2014
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE. AYES - BROOKS, SCHAAF, KALB, KAPLAN, REID,
GALLO, MCELHANEY, AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN