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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

2017 JUN 29 PM 12:56

# AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Sabrina B. Landreth  
City Administrator

**FROM:** Christine Daniel  
Interim Director, OPW

**SUBJECT:** Urban Greening Grant Approval for  
Raimondi Park

**DATE:** June 19, 2017

City Administrator Approval

Date:

*C/28/17*

## RECOMMENDATION

**Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator Or Designee To Apply For, Accept, And Appropriate Grant Funds From The California Department Of Natural Resources Agency - Urban Greening Grant Program In An Amount Not To Exceed Two Million Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$2,450,000.00) For The Raimondi Park Improvement Project (Project).**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approval of this resolution will authorize the City Administrator to apply for, accept, and appropriate grant funds from the Urban Greening Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$2,450,000.00 for the Raimondi Park Improvement Project. Specifically, the project would complete the following objectives:

1. Provide new park amenities for residents including: a trellis-covered picnic area, 'Quiet Garden' and new pedestrian pathways
2. Provide 2,625 linear feet of new pedestrian sidewalk along three sides of the park where none currently exist; providing critical pedestrian connectivity to the park from existing and planned residential communities surrounding the park
3. Plant seventy-one new large canopy trees to provide shade, air-pollutant removal and carbon-sequestration benefits
4. Incorporate 'green infrastructure' along Wood Street to capture stormwater runoff and water-born pollutants

Key criteria and requirements of the grant include:

1. Reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through carbon sequestration and storage achieved by planting trees
2. Reduction of commute vehicle miles traveled by constructing bicycle paths, bicycle lanes or pedestrian facilities that provide safe routes for travel between residences, workplaces, commercial centers, and schools
3. Enhance or expand community parks and green spaces

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4. Use natural systems or systems that mimic natural systems (such as green stormwater infrastructure) to achieve multiple benefits
5. Provide park or recreational benefits to a critically underserved community or disadvantaged community as defined by using CalEnviroScreen 2.0, a mapping tool created by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA).
6. Develop partnerships with local community organizations and businesses in order to strengthen outreach to disadvantaged communities

It is anticipated that the grant agency will notify award recipients by October 2017.

## **BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

### *Project:*

Raimondi Park, located at 1800 Wood Street in West Oakland, was identified under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2003-2005 capital program as a park in need of major renovation. An overall concept master plan (***Attachment A***) was developed in 2003-2004 by the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation (OPRF, formerly Friends of Parks and Recreation) through an extensive community-engaged process. In partnership with the OPRF, Phase 1 of the Raimondi Park Plan was implemented in 2007 and constructed in 2008. The first phase of the project implemented multiple elements, including a new synthetic sport field, a new baseball field, field lighting and scoreboards, a tot lot for children ages 2 - 5, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible pathways, sidewalk and parking along 18th Street.

The project was adopted under the Council approved FY2013-15 Park Project Prioritization list as part of Resolution 85056 C.M.S for Phase 2 scope; and in September 2016, Council approved Resolution No. 86407 C.M.S, authorizing staff to submit a grant for the California Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program to install a second new synthetic sport field, adding viewing seats and associated ADA accessibility improvements (Phase 2A). The grant result is pending.

The proposed Phase 2B renovations for the Urban Greening Grant will continue the implementation of the Master Plan and provide new park amenities for neighboring residents, including: a trellis-covered picnic area, community garden, new pedestrian pathways and accessibility improvements. See ***Attachment B*** Phase 2B Concept Plan.

The proposed project will play a significant role in meeting the State's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets as well as Oakland's sustainability targets.

### *Urban Greening grant:*

Per the California Natural Resources Agency (Agency) website, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 required a sharp reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. This is the first program to take a comprehensive, long-term approach to addressing climate change to improve the environment and natural resources. To achieve the

goal, the State authorized \$1.2 billion in Cap and Trade revenues, also known as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), for projects aimed to reduce GHG emissions.

The Agency was allocated \$80 million for the Urban Greening Program specifically for green infrastructure projects that reduce GHG emissions and provide multiple benefits to disadvantaged communities. The goals of the grant will allocate funds to benefit disadvantaged communities to maximize economic, environmental, and public health benefits; foster job creation; complement efforts to improve air quality; direct investment toward the most disadvantaged communities and households in the State; and provide opportunity for business, public agencies, nonprofits, and other community institutions to participate in the benefit of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and lessen the impacts and effects of climate change to the State's communities, economy, and environment.

The California Natural Resources Agency (Agency) announced the 2017 Urban Greening Grant Program in March of this year. City's Grants Coordinator notified departments of the grant opportunity and called for potential projects. Based on the review of the grant criteria and review of project scope among various departments, Raimondi Park project is recommended for the grant.

#### **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

In March 2017, Citywide Grants Coordinator initiated the call to departments for potential projects and considered potential projects before encouraging Oakland Public Works (OPW) to move forward with the Raimondi Park grant application. OPW submitted a concept proposal for the proposed Raimondi Park project to the grant agency, who indicated the project is suited for the grant. Staff obtained strong internal support from multiple City departments. Oakland Parks & Recreation (OPR) champions the project and pledged support for community engagement through the design and implementation phases. Department of Transportation (DOT) has offered support to ensure the successful integration of the proposed pedestrian sidewalks along with the streetscape, and the Raimondi Park application is the only City project seeking the Urban Greening Grant fund. OPW engaged Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation and Urban Releaf as external partners for the project who were enthusiastically supportive of the proposed improvements.

The proposed project meets the Urban Greening Program's key selection criteria by 1) planting 71 new large canopy trees to provide shade, 2) air-pollutant removal and carbon-sequestration benefits; 3) the incorporation of 'green infrastructure' along Wood Street that will capture stormwater runoff and water-borne pollutants and 4) complete 2,625 linear feet of new pedestrian sidewalk along Campbell Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Wood Street to provide critical pedestrian and accessible connectivity to the park from existing and planned residential communities surrounding the park. Together these improvements will provide new community benefits for a diverse range of local neighbors from the nearby residential community and support City's efforts in meeting the GHG reduction.

The grant agency requires that projects be located within, or specifically benefit, disadvantaged communities as defined using CalEnviroScreen 2.0, a mapping tool created by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). CalEnviroScreen 2.0 scores census tracts based on a combination of environmental and human health indicators and identifies "disadvantaged communities," a designation required by many GGRF opportunities, through mapping. Raimondi Park is located within a disadvantaged community per CalEnviroScreen. This application supports the City's policies and legislative direction, including references in the Oakland's Energy & Climate Action Plan (ECAP) that environmental and sustainability activities be implemented to specifically benefit historically underserved communities.

The grant agency encourages projects that develop partnerships with local community organizations and businesses in order to strengthen outreach to disadvantaged communities. OPW has obtained commitment from Urban Releaf, Keep Oakland Beautiful and Oakland Urban Forestry Forum, community organizations that are actively involved in multiple greening initiatives within the West Oakland neighborhood, to support the proposed tree planting, maintenance and monitoring effort.

West Oakland is a historically industrial neighborhood mixed with residences that has faced chronic economic adversity, extreme levels of youth crime, obesity, and poverty for decades. As one of the five most utilized parks in Oakland, and a heavily used sports park for football, soccer and baseball, Raimondi Park has been widely recognized as a unique opportunity to provide healthy, recreation opportunities for the neighborhood's traditionally underserved youth. However, Raimondi Park is also heavily impacted by some of the worst air pollution in the country. The Park is located less than two miles from- and directly downwind of- the Port of Oakland docks, congested freeways of 80, 880, and 580 leading to the Bay Bridge, the Amtrak rail corridor and frequent large-truck traffic serving the heavily industrial area. The location of the project site within such a heavy concentration of air pollution gives the project's tree planting and quantifiable carbon sequestration objectives great potential to improve air quality and quality of life where it is needed most.

The Urban Greening grant provides an opportunity to implement portions of the Master Plan that have been unfunded. If the grant funds are not awarded, or if the award amount is significantly less than the amount requested, the City would not be able to move forward with this project unless other funding sources are made available.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The project cost is anticipated to be covered by the Urban Greening Grant fund from the California Natural Resources Agency. OPW and DOT are collaborating to incorporate planning opportunities for the adjacent street improvement if the grant is awarded.

If awarded, the grant funds will be appropriated and allocated in the State of California Fund (2159), and Capital Improvement Organization (#92270), and to a new project for Raimondi Park Improvements Phase 2 (project number TBD).

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST**

A master plan for Raimondi Park was developed in 2004, which was informed by an extensive community outreach effort to help define the goals and priorities for the Raimondi Park design. Local groups, the West Oakland Commerce Association, the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation, and Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council provided input in developing the Master Plan which guided the current proposed project. The trellis covered picnic area, 'Quiet Garden' and walking paths were requested by members of the community to provide amenities that local residents of all ages and abilities can utilize on a daily basis.

In 2014-15, OPR conducted four citywide focus groups with the community to discuss on-going community needs for the Park. In addition, OPR's Sports Advisory Committee routinely conducted quarterly meetings and this site was part of the discussion held in September 2014. The public has also received further information about the Raimondi Park Phase 2A Capital Improvements in the May 2015 PRAC meeting.

OPW will continue to engage local community organizations, the West Oakland Commerce Association, and the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation throughout the design development process to build on the Master Plan goals that were developed with their input and continue to strengthen outreach to the neighboring disadvantaged community - ensuring that the goals of the community are met in the realization of the project.

### **COORDINATION**

The submittal of the subject grant application was coordinated under the guidance with the Citywide Grants Coordinator. The work to be done under this project has been and will continue to be coordinated between Oakland Public Works (OPW), Oakland Parks and Recreation (OPR), and Department of Transportation.

The Office of City Attorney and the Budget Office have reviewed this report and resolution.

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## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

***Economic:*** The grant funds, if successful, will provide funds to implement the proposed capital projects which in turn contribute to local economy in the implementation of the projects through contracts.

***Environmental:*** The implementation of the capital project funded by this grant will be required to sequester and store carbon by planting trees as part of the grant requirement; and is expected to provide increasing environmental benefits, directly contributing to achieving Oakland's climate goals. This includes sequestering carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas contributing to climate change, and alleviating the impacts of climate change by reducing stormwater runoff and erosion, in turn reducing the likelihood and extent of flooding. Trees capture and filter air pollution, resulting in improved public health for all members of the community. They also reduce noise pollution. Finally, enhancing the urban forest and ensuring that tree species are carefully selected will enhance habitat for the native flora and fauna species that are part of Oakland's ecosystem. In addition, City projects will implement sustainable practices and policies such as Bay Friendly Landscape practices, stormwater treatment, water conservation measures, etc. to conserve natural resources, reduce energy consumption, and protect the environment.

***Social Equity:*** Improvements to the existing facility and assets will improve and expand opportunities for the community and all program users of City's recreational facilities. The project is part of continued park and recreation facilities capital program to update aging facilities and improve City assets to provide equitable access for seniors, youth and people of all ages. The project will meet ADA requirements to provide equitable access for seniors and those who have mobility constraints.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Administrator to apply for, accept, and appropriate grant funds from the California Department of Natural Resources Agency - Urban Greening Grant in an amount not to exceed \$ 2,450,000.00 for the Raimondi Park Improvement Project.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Lily Soo Hoo, Supervisor, Project Delivery Division, (510) 238-6604.

Respectfully submitted,



CHRISTINE DANIEL  
Interim Director, Oakland Public Works

Reviewed by:  
Danny Lau, Assistant Director  
Bureau of Design & Construction

Prepared by:  
Christine Reed, Capital Improvement Project  
Coordinator

*Attachments (1):*

- A: Raimondi Park Master Plan, 2004*
- B: Raimondi Park Phase 2B Concept Plan, May 2017*



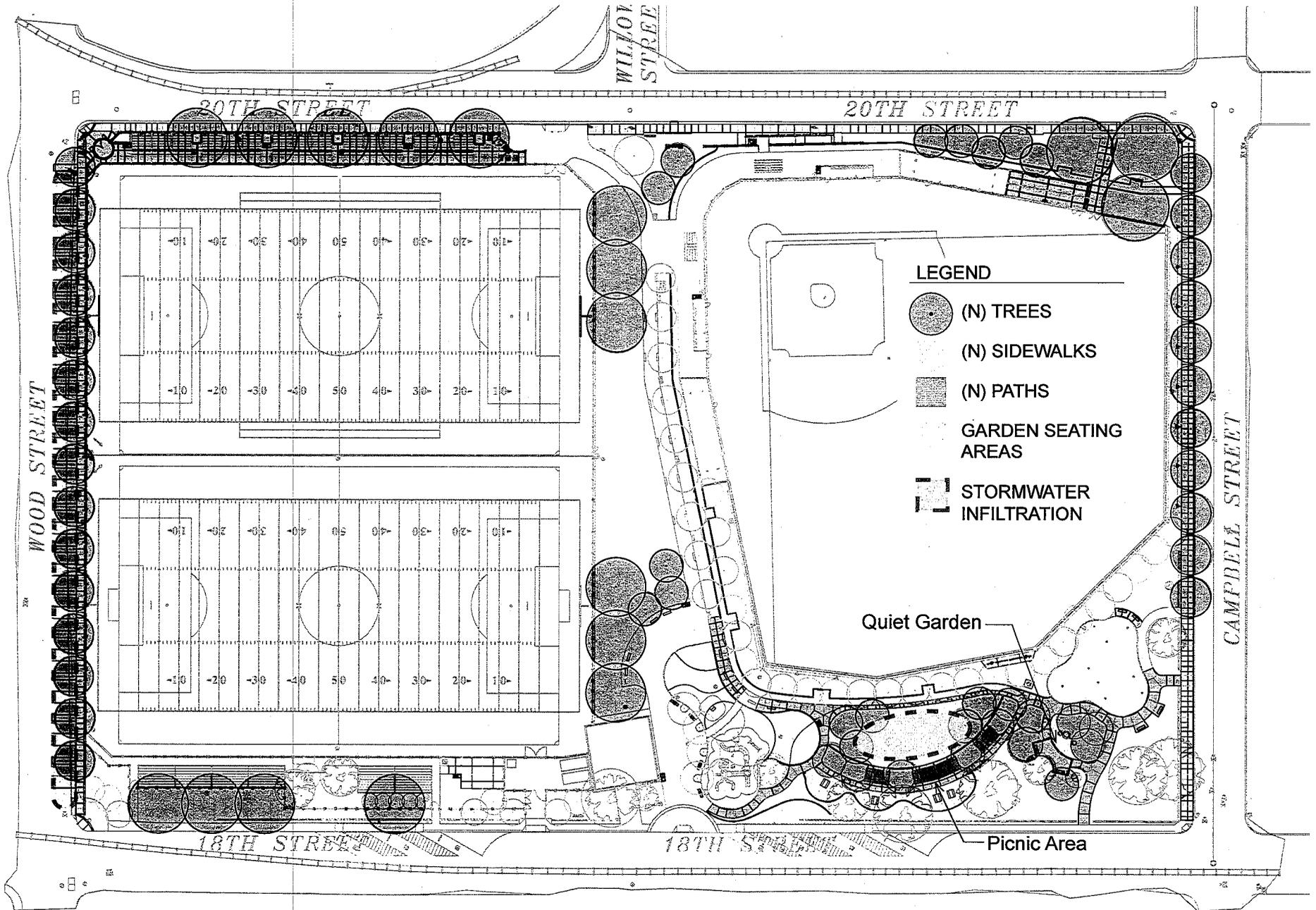
**MASTER PLAN**



**RAIMONDI SPORTS PARK  
CITY OF OAKLAND**



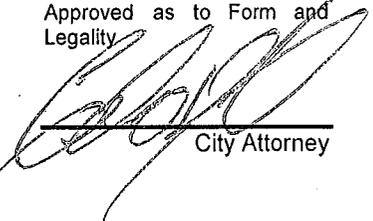
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
CIVIL ENGINEERING  
SPORT PLANNING DESIGN  
2455 The Alameda, Suite 200  
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t. 408.985.7200  
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RAIMONDI PARK - Concept Plan  
not to scale

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RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.



\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

Introduced by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR OR DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY - URBAN GREENING GRANT PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,450,000.00) FOR THE RAIMONDI PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (PROJECT)**

**WHEREAS**, a master plan was developed in 2004 for Raimondi Park through the collaboration of the City of Oakland and the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation with a community engaged process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the California Department of Natural Resources Agency for the California Climate Investments Urban Greening Grant program; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Natural Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, said procedures established by the California Natural Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicants governing board before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the Project; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the City Administrator, or designee, is hereby authorized to apply for, accept, appropriate, conduct all negotiations, execute, amend, and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests hereto for the purposes of securing grant funds and to implement and carry out the purposes specified in the grant application.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Oakland:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Raimondi Park Phase II Improvement project;
2. Certifies that applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application, and

3. Certifies that applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project consistent with the land tenure requirements; or will secure the resources to do so, and
4. Certifies that it will comply with the provisions of Section 1771.5 of the State Labor Code, and
5. If applicable, certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, environmental laws and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable permits will have been obtained, and
6. Certifies that applicant will work towards the Governor's State Planning Priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety as included in Government Code Section 65041.1, and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That if the application is approved, the City Administrator, or designee, is authorized to appropriate funds in an amount not to exceed \$2,450,000 in the State of California Fund (2159), Capital Improvement Organization (92270), and to a new project for Raimondi Park Improvements Phase 2 (project number TBD), and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That such agreements shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of the City Attorney and shall be filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, GUILLEN, KALB, KAPLAN, AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LaTonda Simmons  
 City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
 of the City of Oakland, California