


City Attorney's Office

15 APR -9 PM 4:08

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY
AND COUNCILMEMBER DESLEY BROOKS

**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE WEEK OF APRIL 19-25, 2015
AS "OAKLAND VEG WEEK" IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND
TO ENCOURAGE OAKLAND RESIDENTS TO TAKE THE VEG
PLEDGE TO EAT VEGETARIAN FOR 1 WEEK.**

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland is committed to the health and well-being of its residents and the vitality of our local environment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland is committed to sustainable and environmentally friendly practices to ensure the longevity of our planet; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2011 poll by Gallup, nearly 16 million residents of the United States practice vegetarianism; and

WHEREAS, reducing the consumption of meat reduces the risk of heart disease, which is the most common natural cause of death among women and men; and

WHEREAS, the American Institute for Cancer Research recommends reducing meat consumption to help reduce the risk of various cancers; and

WHEREAS, 42 percent of Oakland children are overweight or obese and according to a study from the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, a "decrease in meat consumption may help improve weight management"; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations recognizes that "Livestock are one of the most significant contributors to today's most serious environmental problems" and recommends that everyone "eat less meat, poultry and fish" as a way to curb climate change; and

WHEREAS, according to the PB&J Campaign, one meatless lunch saves 2.5 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, 24 feet of land and 133 gallons of water; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, the Oakland Unified School District has supported "Meatless Mondays" as a means to reduce meat consumption, promote healthier plant-based meal options, and reduce the District's environmental impact through meat-free school lunches each Monday; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture reports that 9.1 billion animals were slaughtered for food in the United States in 2013; and

WHEREAS, if every United States resident refrained from eating meat once a week, approximately 1.4 billion animal lives could be saved; and

WHEREAS, Oakland will host the inaugural Veg Fest on April 25, 2015 at the Lake Merritt Amphitheatre as a celebration of vegetarianism with food samples, speakers and local merchants; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: the City of Oakland declares the week of April 19-26 as "Oakland Veg Week," encourages residents to consume vegetarian foods, and urges grocery stores, restaurants, and schools to provide a greater selection of vegetarian food options during "Veg Week" and throughout the year.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

NOES -
ABSENT --
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

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