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City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

RESOLUTION HONORING THE HEROES AND SURVIVORS OF THE 2551 SAN PABLO FIRE AND PRESENTING COMMENDATIONS TO JOSEPH KEARSE, BOBBY EARL BISHOP JR., MICHAEL JONES, AND MARO SMITH WHOSE HEROIC ACTS ON MARCH 27, 2017 SAVED OVER 100 LIVES.

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2017 an accident led to a fire at a multi-story apartment building at 2551 San Pablo Avenue that housed over a hundred Oakland residents; and

WHEREAS, this tragedy took the lives of four Oaklanders, Edwarn Anderson, Cassandra Johnson, Ashantikee Wilson, and Olatunde Adejumobi and displaced over 100 survivors of the fire; and

WHEREAS, the survivors of the fire were only just able to escape through windows, fire escapes, and quickly assembled rope ladders and these actions were made possible by the actions of some residents including Joseph Kearse, Bobby Earl Bishop Jr., Michael Jones, and Maro Smith who were able to raise the alarm and assist the evacuation of the rest of the building; and

WHEREAS, a greater loss of life was also averted by the actions of the City of Oakland's firefighters who rescued at least 15 people who were trapped in the building; and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to confer special recognition on the four residents, Joseph Kearse, Bobby Earl Bishop Jr., Michael Jones, and Maro Smith, whose heroic actions to warn residents and organize the evacuation of the building saved the lives of many residents who would have been unable to escape without assistance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby honors the heroes and survivors of the 2551 San Pablo fire and presents commendations to Joseph Kearse, Bobby Earl Bishop Jr., Michael Jones, and Maro Smith whose heroic acts on March 27, 2017 saved over 100 lives.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL-WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLÉN, 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