

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

City Attorney

2014 JAN 24 AM 10:56

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney

RESOLUTION IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONORING THE FOLLOWING COURAGEOUS AFRICAN AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS, WHO THROUGH THEIR INNOVATIVE, GROUNDBREAKING WORK, HAVE PROMOTED POSITIVE CHANGE AND UPLIFT FOR THE CITY OF OAKLAND IN THE FIELDS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, ADVOCACY, ARTS AND CULTURE, BUSINESS AND FAITH: GEOFFREY PETE, ELLEN WYRICK-PARKINSON, OSCAR WRIGHT, COACH BEN TAPSCOTT, REV. DR. J. ALFRED SMITH SR., ERNESTINE REEMS, BISHOP BOB JACKSON, REV. DR. GILLETE JAMES, NEWTON & SALLIE T. CAREY, ILE OMODE SCHOOL, MARCUS BOOKS, ELAINE BROWN AND BOBBY SEALE

WHEREAS, Dr Carter Godwin Woodson, an African-American historian, author, journalist and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, recognized that African-American contributions were overlooked, ignored, and suppressed by history textbooks and educators, dedicated his life to the discovery, research, preservation and promotion of African American contributions to the U S, and,

WHEREAS, in 1925, Dr Woodson pioneered the celebration of "Negro History Week," to honor Black American achievement and contribution in the U S and the world Designated the week between the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, in 1976, the official commemoration was extended to the entire month of February and renamed to Black History Month which is now celebrated throughout the United States, Canada, and the U K, and,

WHEREAS, Oakland is one of the most ethnically diverse major cities in the United States, and has since the Great Migration in the 1940s - when thousands of Southern laborers moved to California - been known as an epicenter of African-American life, culture and community, and,

WHEREAS, the individuals and institutions we honor today have made significant contributions to the City of Oakland, through their dedication to the celebration, expansion, and preservation of the unique contributions of African Americans and these historic contributions are woven into the fabric of American history in the City of Oakland, the United States and the world, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends MARCUS BOOKS and the important role that holds in the city of Oakland and the nation Founded in San Francisco in 1960 by Julian and Raye Richardson, and its Oakland location at 3900 Martin Luther King Jr Way in 1970, named for the famed pan-African leader Marcus Garvey, MARCUS BOOKS is the oldest, continually operating African-American owned bookstore in the nation dedicated to works by, for and about Black people, and be it

RESOLVED: that the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends ILE OMODE School for their outstanding achievement in educating Oakland's youth Founded in 1986 by members of the Wo'se Community Church, ILE OMODE - "the House of Children"- is an independent, African-centered educational institution, dedicated in with spirit of Dr Woodson to redress the mis-education and the culturally and spiritually deficient education imposed on African and African American youth in the public schools, and be it

RESOLVED. that the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends GEOFFREY PETE, an entrepreneur, civic leader, and philanthropist for his dedication to provide support for aspiring and established musicians, singers, artists, comedians, religious leaders, educators, community organizations and to create a welcoming place for African Americans for more than four decades Geoffrey's Inner Circle, his flagship establishment continues to serve as a gathering spot for the greater Bay Area region, hosting jazz, blues, gospel and Black comedy acts with local and internationally-recognized artists, and be it

RESOLVED: that the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends ELLEN WYRICK-PARKINSON, Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson, a long time Oakland resident, property and business Mrs Parkinson has always believed in the uplift of the African American people and as a tireless champion for the West Oakland community, advocated work for the creation of Mandela Parkway after the collapse of the Cypress Freeway and for fair treatment for the people of West Oakland residents in the transfer of the Oakland Army Base and the renovation of West Oakland parks, and be it

RESOLVED: that the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends OSCAR WRIGHT, a long-tenured North Oakland property owner, father, grandfather and education advocate for more than forty years tirelessly supports and lobbies for the cause of educational equity of African American students A WWII veteran, contractor and former teacher. Mr Wright founded the citywide African American Honor Roll recognition program, established the African American Education Task Force and the Black United Front for Educational Reform and author of Genocide Locked Out by Design, and be it

RESOLVED: that the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends BEN TAPSCOTT, Multi-Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame Inductee, was the first African American head basketball coach in the Oakland Unified School District and a long-time instructor at McClymonds High school For decades Coach Tapscott, a beloved icon in the West Oakland community, has served as dedicated youth juvenile justice and student advocate, and be it

RESOLVED: that the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends REV DR J ALFRED SMITH, Sr a visionary and the illustrious Pastor Emeritus of the Allen Temple Baptist Church, BISHOP BOB JACKSON of the Acts Full Gospel Church of God in Christ, and BISHOP ERNESTINE CLEVELAND-RHEEMS, of the Center of Hope Ministries, REV PASTOR NEWTON AND LADY SALLIE T CAREY of the True Vine Ministries, REV DR GILLETTE JAMES, Beth Eden Baptist Church In addition to their roles as spiritual leaders, these internationally-recognized theologians helped lead a generation of Black leaders to extend the role of the church to advance the cause of social justice by pioneering housing & economic development, education, childcare, re-entry, healthcare and food access Together, these leaders have stimulated millions of dollars of investment in the poorest neighborhoods in Oakland creating 1000s of units of housing for seniors and other vulnerable populations, serving thousands of men and women returning from prison, served millions of meals to Oakland's hungry, developed education programs from preschool to adult education, launched licensed health clinics and stood against international and domestic injustice, and be it

RESOLVED: that the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends BOBBY SEAL, ELAINE BROWN and the BLACK PANTHER PARTY for contributions to advancing the cause of racial and social justice Founded in in Oakland in 1966, founders Bobby Seal and Huey Newton sought to ensure access to quality education, childcare, healthcare, housing, equal justice and police reform, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Oakland City Council officially recognizes the month of February as Black History month in the City of Oakland and encourages all residents and educators to honor and teach about the achievements and unique contributions of Blacks in the Armed Forces, Arts, Civil Rights, Education, Entertainment, Family Life, History, Humanity, Law, Literature, Medicine, Music, Politics, Religion, Science, and Sports and the institutions that reflect the rich heritage of these residents

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE

AYES – BROOKS, GALLO GIBSON McELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF, and
PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST _____

LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland California