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City Attorney's Office

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2014 APR 16 AM 11:27

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LIBBY SCHAAF

**RESOLUTION DECLARING THE WEEK OF APRIL 21-27, 2014 AS
"OAKLAND VEG WEEK" IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND**

Whereas, the City of Oakland is dedicated to the preservation of the environment and natural resources, and

Whereas, the City of Oakland is dedicated to green initiatives and green management, and

Whereas, the City of Oakland is dedicated to the health of its citizens, and

Whereas, Oakland passed a landmark Energy and Climate Action Plan in 2011 with the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and

Whereas, raising animals for food, including growing and processing the crops to feed them, is far more water-intensive than eating plant-based products directly, and

Whereas, in a 2013 report entitled "Tackling Climate Change Through Livestock," the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reported that livestock production accounts for approximately 15 percent of global, human-induced greenhouse gas emissions, and

Whereas, such findings prompted Rajendra Pachauri, head of a Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to recommend that individuals reduce their carbon footprint by decreasing their meat consumption. Pachauri further noted, "In terms of immediacy of action and the feasibility of bringing about reductions in a short period of time, [reduced meat consumption] clearly is the most attractive opportunity. Give up meat for one day each week initially, and decrease it from there", and

Whereas, leading public figures advocate for reduced meat consumption, such as Oprah Winfrey and Ellen DeGeneres—who both have websites dedicated to this issue—and President Bill Clinton—whose meat-free diet has contributed to his significant weight loss and has reduced the effects of his heart disease, and

Whereas, childhood obesity rates are at an all-time high with thirty-one percent of adolescents ages 12- to 17-years-old, and one-in-three California children ages 9-11 years old, at risk of or are already overweight as well as "Type 2 diabetes in children and adolescents already [appearing] to be a sizeable and growing problem among U.S. children and adolescents" according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and

Whereas, the American Dietetic Association recognizes that reduced meat consumption decreases the risk of various health problems including heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and various cancers, and

Whereas, nearly 10 billion birds, pigs and cows, most of whom live on massive factory farms that cause animal suffering and environmental destruction, are slaughtered for food each

City Attorney's Office

year in the United States, and The Humane Society of the United States finds that "if each one of us cuts back on our animal consumption by only 10%, approximately one billion animals would be spared a lifetime of suffering each year", and

Whereas, Los Angeles city councilwoman Jan Perry stated, "Eating less meat can prevent and even reduce some of our nation's most common illnesses" after she and Councilman Ed Reyes successfully introduced the motion that caused LA to become the biggest city to endorse the Meatless Monday movement, and

Whereas, Oakland Unified School District is practicing Meatless Monday each week to introduce students to healthy vegetarian options and to benefit the environment, and

Whereas, California municipalities like Marin County and San Diego have recognized Veg Week out of concern for the humane treatment of animals, environmental sustainability, and public health, now, therefore, be it

Resolved the City of Oakland proclaims the week of April 21-27, 2014, as "Oakland Veg Week," and encourages Oakland residents, restaurants, schools, grocery stores, organizations and other institutions to join public officials in choosing and offering a greater variety of vegetarian foods

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2014

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST _____

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