


City Attorney

03 APR 21 AM 9:09

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY 2006 AS NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

WHEREAS, 37 million Americans (13%) are now living in poverty, according to the most recent U.S. Census figures; and

WHEREAS, the number of Americans in poverty grew slightly in 2004 to 12.7 percent from the 12.5 percent recorded the previous year; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, the number of people living in poverty has increased by 5.4 million; and

WHEREAS, 16 percent of America's children are documented as living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, the number of families in poverty increased from 7.6 million (10%) in 2003 to 7.8 million (10.2%) in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census 2004 Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage estimates that 45.8 million Americans lack health insurance coverage – roughly 15.7 percent of the population and 18.4 percent of Californians lack health insurance; and

WHEREAS, 4.7 million Californians live in poverty, a rate of 13 percent, higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, the Brookings Institution reported in its October 2005 study that four of the twenty poorest cities in this country are in California and one in five children in our state live in poverty; and

WHEREAS, the average poverty threshold for a family of four in 2006 is \$20,000 (\$9.61 hr); for a family of three, \$16,600 (\$7.69 hr); and for a family of two \$13,200 (\$6.35 hr.); and

WHEREAS, in Alameda County 11 percent (158,812) of the population lives in poverty; and

WHEREAS, the California Budget Project reports that due to the Bay Area's high cost of living, it would cost a family of four \$70,000 to meet their basic needs annually; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Oakland 19.4 percent (76,489) of the population lives in poverty; 28.2 percent (27,558) are children under the age of 18 and 13.1 percent (5,329) are seniors 65 and over; and

WHEREAS, since 1971, through the creation of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the City of Oakland's Community Action Agency (Oakland's Community Action Partnership – OCAP) has been addressing and serving the needs of Oakland's low-income population by providing innovative programs to promote self-sufficiency and put an end to poverty; and

WHEREAS, Oakland and the entire United States of America must continue to wage war on poverty by continuing to provide and support opportunities for all citizens in need of assistance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Oakland pledges to continue to build a city in which all communities and families can thrive; and where all working families are provided a living wage, affordable housing, quality health care, and excellent education in an effort to eradicate poverty in Oakland; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council does hereby proclaim May 2006 as National Community Action Month in the City of Oakland in recognition of the services and advocacy of over 1100 Community Action Agencies nationwide who provide assistance to the millions of Americans who are living in poverty throughout our nation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that on May 13, 2006 from 9:00 – 11:00 am, a “Walk to End Poverty” hosted by the Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda County Community Action Partnership Agencies and Catholic Charities of the East Bay will take place at Lake Merritt in Oakland, California; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council declares May 13, 2006 as “Walk to End Poverty Day” in the City of Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20_____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and
PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California