

2013 SEP 18 ~~RESOLUTION~~ RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember Schaaf and Councilmember Brooks

**A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING OBASI DAVIS,  
OAKLAND RESIDENT, AS THE CITY OF OAKLAND'S  
SECOND ANNUAL YOUTH POET LAUREATE**

**WHEREAS**, *Obasi Davis, 17*, is a long-time Oakland resident and a founding member of its heralded poetry ensemble Young, Gifted and Black; and

**WHEREAS**, Obasi has been a tenacious student of prose and poetry since age 12, an accomplished performer who has twice represented the Bay Area at the international Brave New Voices Poetry Festival, and a respected leader on the teen advisory board for Youth Speaks Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, California state poet laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera, a judge in this annual competition, calls Obasi "a master of the deep breath" who writes with "the humanity-voice of Gwendolyn Brooks, the long-jeweled line of Ginsberg and his own Obasi magic"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Program is a program of the Oakland Public Library in collaboration with Youth Speaks and more than a dozen community partners; and

**WHEREAS**, Obasi Davis, as Youth Poet Laureate, will represent the City of Oakland as an ambassador for literacy, arts and youth expression, have his work published in a forthcoming anthology, and receive a \$5000 college scholarship; and

**WHEREAS**, Obasi shines a light on the struggles, triumphs and resilience of Oakland, setting an example for all youth to tell their own stories through poetry and the arts; now be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that the City of Oakland expresses profound gratitude and appreciation for Obasi Davis, 2013 Youth Poet Laureate for the City of Oakland.

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