



CITY OF OAKLAND

2016 FEB -4 PM 1:57

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Office of the Honorable Lynette Gibson McElhaney  
COUNCILMEMBER ~ DISTRICT 3

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Date: Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

To: Members of the City Council

Cc: LaTonda Simmons, City Clerk  
Barbara Parker, City Attorney

From: Council President Lynette Gibson McElhaney

Re: Honoring Local Leaders for Black History Month

Dear Members of the City Council:

It is my pleasure to bring forth this resolution honoring local leaders in celebration of Black history month. Oakland is one of the most ethnically diverse major cities in the United States, and has been known since the Great Migration in the 1940s - when thousands of Southern laborers moved to California - as an epicenter of African-American life, culture and community. The individuals we honor today have made significant contributions to the City of Oakland and are deserving of official recognition. This resolution honors the following leaders:

District 1 is honoring: **Bishop Frank Pinkard jr.** who has served as an esteemed spiritual and community leader and humanitarian in Oakland, working for the advancement of the City of Oakland's diverse communities for over 50 years. His dedication and commitment to Oakland is demonstrated through his tireless work at the Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church in North Oakland where he has ministered since 1985 as well as numerous acts of hands-on leadership and public service. He directed and oversaw the construction and completion of 120 units of housing for our senior and disabled residents, as well as the completion of the Maya Angelou Library & Literacy Center—made to inspire and encourage Oakland youth to discover the world through reading. Bishop Pinkard also has served as President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of the East Bay, President of the Baptist Ministers Union of Oakland, Moderator of the Oakland Council Churches, First Vice President of the United California Baptist State Convention, President of the Board of Directors for the African-American Church Health and Economic Services (ACHES), President of the St. Luke's Society, and Moderator of the Mt. Zion District Association. Moreover, Bishop Pinkard previously served as a member of the Alameda County Commission on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and the Alameda County Grand Jury.

District 2 is honoring: **Dr. William "Bill" Riley**, an Oakland native, was first elected to the Peralta Community College District's Board of Trustees, whose headquarters are in Oakland Council District 2, in 1998. A Merritt College alumnus, he has served in public education as a teacher, counselor, coach, principal, vice-principal and administrator for four decades. He earned an Ed.D. in



educational policy from the University of San Francisco and an M.A. in educational administration from San Francisco State University. Under his leadership, the four Peralta colleges have partnered with hundreds of community organizations, fostering growth within the cities and neighborhoods they serve. Dr. Riley is passionate about providing and funding quality education for Peralta's diverse campuses, which offer classes for more than 30,000 students every year. He advocated for Measure A's \$390 million expenditures for college improvements, and the annual community golf tournament he established has raised more than \$700,000 for scholarships, supplies and equipment.

District 3 is honoring: **Paul Cobb** a longtime civil rights activist who was born and raised in West Oakland, marched with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and has dedicated much of his life to fighting for social justice and equity in our community. We honor him for his strong advocacy on behalf of his community, his commitment to high quality journalism through the Oakland Post which he has published since acquiring the paper in 2004, and his continued commitment to activism and progressive values.

District 3 is honoring: **Emory Douglas** who was an integral leader of the Black Panther Party as the Revolutionary Artist and Minister of Culture from 1967 until 1980 during which time he personally oversaw the art direction and production of the Party's official newspaper which at its peak reached over a hundred and thirty thousand readers across the country. Emory's artistic style and design skills profoundly shaped the spirit of activism, social justice and self-determination of the Black Panther Party and he continues to work towards informing and educating the community through his art.

District 4 is honoring: **Pastor George Cummings** who is the founding pastor of the Imani Community Church and has been an ordained minister for over 35 years. His ministry has been characterized by his commitment to scholarly work in the area of theology and the African-American religious and cultural tradition and a commitment to the youth of Oakland. He has lectured and preached across the United States and throughout the world such as South Africa, Cuba, Nigeria, Japan, Kenya and many more. He holds membership in the American Academy of Religion, and the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians, and the Society for the Study of Black Religion. Pastor Cummings has published two books: Cut Loose Your Stammering Tongue: Black Theology in the Slaves Narratives, with Dwight Hopkins, and A Common Journey: Black Theology USA and Latin American Liberation Theology. He is currently working on a third manuscript which explores African-American religious and cultural texts as sources of theological data. He is Co-Chair of Oakland Community Organization (OCO), an important part of the Oakland community. He is a critical faith leader in Ceasefire, Oakland's crime reduction strategy that coordinates law enforcement, social services, and the community to reduce gang/group-related homicides and shootings. His strength, guidance and leadership in the City of Oakland is admirable. He is a shining example of what makes Oakland great.

District 5 is honoring: **Mrs. Egypt King** is a community leader, volunteer, activist, who has launched educational, agricultural, and community programs benefiting primarily Oakland youth since 1999; programs which include "Reggies Stop The Violence Basketball Tournament," "Supporting Positive Opportunities for Teens" (SPOT) - an educational/vocational program for high school students; a student store to help sustain sports and cultural enrichment programs; the "Fruitvale & Coolidge District Community Closet" which helps the less fortunate people in need of attire for job interviews, funerals, maternity wear, school uniforms, child car seats, educational toys



for toddlers, blankets, clothing, toiletries, and survival kits for the homeless; and spearheads the language & music exchange programs, karate/capoeira, Afro-Cuban drumming and dance, salsa dancing, tutoring, computer and homework lab, Weeds to Seeds Book-Read Talk Circle, cultural cooking/gardening/crafts classes, GEMS (Girls'/Gentlemen's Empowerment Movement), Girls Group of Color, Soccer Sundays, projects to educate and create awareness among the youth about human trafficking, beautification projects – all at Peralta Hacienda's community center and facilities.

District 5 is honoring: **Mr. Preston J. Turner**, CEO of PJT Enterprises – a business that provides music management, consulting, event planning, booking, representation and musical entertainment, also founder and manager of the internationally acclaimed and Bay Area's own *Pure Ecstasy*, an Oakland resident for the past 20 years committed to community service, safety, and overall community economic development growth; also Chair of the Melrose/High Hopes Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Beat 27X committed to addressing and solving constituent issues and concerns and working with Oakland Police Department, Council Office, City Departments, schools to serve over 6,000 Beat members; under his leadership, some of Melrose/High Hopes NCPC accomplishments include the completion of Foothill/High St/Fairfax – Melrose Streetscape Plan, installation of Traffic Island/Planters & Speed Bumps in the Beat, High Street/Fairfax Task Force – Sideshow Abatement, Annual Thanksgiving Food Basket Giveaway, adoption of Horace Mann School, closing down liquor stores and billard halls, on-going neighborhood beautification and clean up projects; Preston is an exemplary community leader, a neighborhood friend passionate to strengthening, enhancing and improving Oakland communities.

District 6 is honoring: **Assata Olugbala**, who has served as an engaged and dedicated constituent, leader and unrelenting education and civil rights advocate for the Oakland community. In addition to her unwavering participation in Oakland City Council and committee meetings, Ms. Assata's service to her community is inspired by her 37 years as an educator. Her passion for helping to enrich the quality of life for all citizens, especially African Americans and youth, is reflective in her service initiatives which include beautification projects through Keep Oakland Beautiful, her volunteerism with the Kaboom building projects in District 6 and her commitment to providing local families with African American Children's books in an effort to encourage self-esteem through reading. Ms. Assata's model example of citizen participation in government and community continues to emphasize the issues and needs of Oakland's underrepresented groups through her undeniably fervent commitment to social equity.

District 7 is honoring: **Jean Blacksher** who has been dedicated and involved in her community for over 35 years as a board member, Vice President, Treasurer and home owner patrolling the community in Toler Heights neighborhood. She was one of the co-founders of central East project area (PAC), served as Vice President and board member of OCO and served as City Planning Commissioner for City of Oakland. Jean Blacksher while serving her community worked in the Nutrition department at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley, CA for 35yrs before retirement. She is fiercely passionate about improving the neighborhood and city she has lived in for over 50yrs. Jean Blacksher is a member of Word Assembly Church, a proud parent of two children, three grandchildren, and one great grandson.

District 7 is honoring: **Ms. Gloria Jeffery** who has been active in her community for over 30 years as President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Las Palmas Community Group, President and Secretary of the MacArthur Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council, while working with OPD in



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planning strategies for the community, as well as one of the Co-Founders of the Central East Project Area Committee (PAC) and served diligently on the board. Ms. Gloria Jeffery while serving her community worked at Bayer HealthCare in Berkeley, CA for 36 years until her retirement in 2010. She has been a faithful member Of Word Assembly for many years, and is the proud mother of one child, Kimberly Rhodes-Slaton of Phoenix AZ.

The At-Large District is honoring: acclaimed film director **Ryan Coogler** who was born and raised in Oakland and has made telling the story of Oakland part of his Hollywood legacy. In 2013 he directed the film *Fruitvale Station*, about the last 24 hours in the life of Oakland resident Oscar Grant who was killed by a Bart police officer on January 1, 2009. The film was a commercial and critical success winning both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival. Ryan has a long history of giving back. His father was an Oakland Longshoreman and his mother an Oakland based Community Organizer and prior to directing films Ryan worked with incarcerated youth to help provide them better opportunities and outcomes. Ryan often speaks of his desire to grow a film company in Oakland that can employ local residents and serve as a symbol of hope for our young people. Ryan's current film *Creed*, starring Sylvester Stallone, is the long awaited sequel to *Rocky* and his next film, *Black Panther*, is a the latest installment in the Marvel Comics action film series. Ryan's accomplishments show the potential and possibility of Oakland's youth.

The Office of the Mayor is honoring: **Theo Aytchan Williams** who contributes abundantly to the vibrancy our city. More than simply being known for dancing and drumming, he personifies the inclusive culture and community of our great city. Theo Williams' Samba Funk has provided a spiritually uplifting, culturally rich experience for new and longtime residents, alike.

Signed,



Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney



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DRAFT

City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

RESOLUTION IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONORING THE FOLLOWING COURAGEOUS AFRICAN AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS, 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: BISHOP FRANK PINKARD JR., DR. WILLIAM "BILL" RILEY, PAUL COBB, EMORY DOUGLAS, PASTOR GEORGE CUMMINGS, EGYPT KING, PRESTON J. TURNER, ASSATA OLUGBALA, JEAN BLACKSHER, GLORIA JEFFERY, RYAN COOGLER, AND THEO AYTCHAN WILLIAMS.

**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 through the designation of the week between the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, and 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 been known since the Great Migration in the 1940s - when thousands of Southern laborers moved to California - 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; and

**WHEREAS**, District 1 is honoring: **Bishop Frank Pinkard Jr.** who has served as an esteemed spiritual leader and humanitarian in Oakland, working for the advancement of the City of Oakland's diverse communities for over 50 years, and whose dedication and commitment to Oakland is demonstrated through his tireless work at the Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church in North Oakland, where he has ministered since 1985, as well as his numerous acts of hands-on leadership and public service, including overseeing the completion of the Maya Angelou Library & Literacy Center that inspires Oakland youth to discover the world through reading, and previously serving as a member of the Alameda County Commission on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency; and

**WHEREAS**, District 2 is honoring: **Dr. William "Bill" Riley**, an Oakland native, who was first elected in 1998 to the Peralta Community College District's Board of Trustees, and who is a Merritt College alumnus where he has served in public education as a teacher and in numerous leadership roles for four decades after earning an Ed.D. in educational policy from the University of San Francisco and an M.A. in educational administration from San Francisco State University, and recently under his leadership, the four Peralta colleges have partnered with hundreds of community organizations, fostering growth within the cities and neighborhoods they serve and providing and funding quality education for Peralta's diverse campuses, which offer classes for more than 30,000 students every year; and

**WHEREAS**, District 3 is honoring: **Paul Cobb** a longtime civil rights activist who was born and raised in West Oakland, marched with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and has dedicated much of his life to fighting for social justice and equity in our community through his strong advocacy, his commitment to high quality journalism through the Oakland Post which he has published since acquiring the paper in 2004, and his continued commitment to activism and progressive values; and

**WHEREAS**, District 3 is honoring: **Emory Douglas** who was an integral leader of the Black Panther Party as the Revolutionary Artist and Minister of Culture from 1967 until 1980 during which time he personally oversaw the art direction and production of the Party's official newspaper which at its peak reached over a hundred and thirty thousand readers across the country which, through Emory's artistic style and design skills, profoundly shaped the spirit of activism, social justice and self-determination of the Black Panther Party and who continues to work towards informing and educating the community through his art; and

**WHEREAS**, District 4 is honoring: **Pastor George Cummings** who is the founding pastor of the Imani Community Church and has been an ordained minister for over 35 years, and whose ministry has been characterized by his commitment to scholarly work in the area of theology and the African-American religious and cultural tradition and who has shown great strength, guidance and leadership in serving the people of Oakland through his work on numerous boards, commissions and projects especially as a critical faith leader in Ceasefire, Oakland's crime reduction strategy, and

all of these endeavors have made him a shining example of what makes Oakland great; and

**WHEREAS**, District 5 is honoring: **Egypt King** who as a community leader, volunteer, activist, has launched educational, agricultural, and community programs benefiting primarily Oakland youth since 1999 including, among many others, "Supporting Positive Opportunities for Teens" (SPOT) - an educational/vocational program for high school students and the "Fruitvale & Coolidge District Community Closet" which helps the less fortunate people in need of attire for formal occasions and who has worked with youth in our community to create awareness about human trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, District 5 is honoring: **Preston J. Turner**, CEO of PJT Enterprises and an Oakland resident who, for the past 20 years, has shown great commitment to community service, safety, and overall community development, who has chaired the Melrose/High Hopes Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Beat 27X where he has shown great leadership on crime prevention and on-going neighborhood beautification projects and who has shown himself to be an exemplary community leader and neighborhood friend passionate about strengthening, enhancing and improving Oakland communities; and

**WHEREAS**, District 6 is honoring: **Assata Olugbala**, who has served as an engaged and dedicated constituent, leader and unrelenting education and civil rights advocate for the Oakland community, and whose model example of citizen participation in government and community continues to emphasize the issues and needs of Oakland's underrepresented groups through her undeniably fervent commitment to social equity; and

**WHEREAS**, District 7 is honoring: **Jean Blacksher**, an Oakland resident of more than fifty years, who has been a community leader in neighborhood safety by co-founding the Central East Project Area Committee (PAC), serving on the OCO and Planning Commission, and working at Alta Bates Hospital for thirty five years and who has remained fiercely passionate about improving her neighborhood and city she and who is a member of Word Assembly Church, a proud parent of two children, three grandchildren, and one great grandson; and

**WHEREAS**, District 7 is honoring: **Gloria Jeffery** who as a community activist and leader working on crime prevention and community development through her leadership in a number of organizations including co-founding the Central East Project Area Committee (PAC) and served diligently on the board, and working at Bayer HealthCare in Berkeley, CA for 36 years until her retirement in 2010, and she has been a faithful member Of Word Assembly for many years as well being the proud mother of one child, Kimberly Rhodes-Slaton of Phoenix AZ; and

**WHEREAS**, the At-Large District is honoring: acclaimed film director **Ryan Coogler** who was born and raised in Oakland and has made telling the story of Oakland part of his Hollywood legacy including the 2013 film *Fruitvale Station*, which he directed, about the last 24 hours in the life of Oakland resident Oscar Grant which won both the

Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival and who also has a long history of community service having worked with incarcerated youth as well as serving as an exemplary role model to show the potential and possibility of Oakland's youth; and

**Whereas**, The Mayor's Office is honoring: **Theo Aytchan Williams** who contributes abundantly to the vibrancy our city for more than simply being known for dancing and drumming with Samba funk but for also personifying the inclusive culture and community of our great city by providing a spiritually uplifting, culturally rich experience for new and longtime residents, alike; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland hereby honors and commends the following individuals in recognition of Black History and Heritage Month 2016:

- Bishop Frank Pinkard Jr.
- Dr. William "Bill" Riley
- Paul Cobb
- Emory Douglas
- Pastor George C.L. Cummings
- Egypt King
- Preston J. Turner
- Assata Olugbala
- Gloria Jeffery
- Jean Blacksher
- Ryan Coogler
- Theo Aytchan Williams

And be it;

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That these African American individuals are recognized for their courageous spirits, their innovation to address community challenges, and their steadfast commitment to social change, which have yielded great results that have strengthened, enhanced, and improved the City of Oakland and the lives of all its residents.

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