


CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER ZAC UNGER

A RESOLUTION (1) HONORING THE REMARKABLE ROBERT GEORGE SEALE, "BOBBY SEALE" FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION AS A CO-FOUNDER OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY, ACTIVIST, ENGINEER, AUTHOR, AND FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF OAKLAND; (2) DECLARING OCTOBER 22ND AS BOBBY SEALE DAY IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND; AND (3) COMMEMORATIVELY RENAMING THE INTERSECTION OF 57TH STREET AND MARTIN LUTHER KING JR WAY AS 'BOBBY SEALE WAY' AND (4) AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF A PLAQUE OR SIGN HONORING BOBBY SEALE, PURSUANT TO THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 77967 C.M.S.

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 34091.1 allows a jurisdiction by resolution to name a new public street or to rename an existing public street; and

WHEREAS, the naming of a new public street or the renaming of an existing public street is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Oakland City Council Resolution No. 77967 C.M.S. (passed July 15, 2003), the City Council may, on its motion, consider the renaming of a public street as a tribute to an individual or as a result of a significant event or activity, if one of the following criteria is met: (1) the individual has positively impacted the lives of a nation or the world; or (2) the name change is related to an economic development or redevelopment activity; or (3) The renaming commemorates a significant historical event; and

WHEREAS, the City Council may commemorate a nominee either by: (a) retaining the existing street name and installing commemorative plaques or signs; or (b) renaming the existing street for the individual and installing new street signs; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Seale, born Robert George Seale on October 22, 1936, in Liberty, Texas, later became a proud resident of Oakland, California, where he co-founded the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in 1966 alongside Huey P. Newton, sparking a revolutionary movement grounded in racial justice, self-determination, and community empowerment; and

WHEREAS, under Bobby Seale’s leadership as Chairman, the Black Panther Party rose to national prominence not only for its stance against police brutality but for its pioneering community-based programs, including free breakfast programs for children, health clinics, educational initiatives, and mutual aid efforts that served as blueprints for future social welfare models; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Seale demonstrated courage and resilience during a time of intense political repression, including being wrongfully charged and tried as part of the “Chicago Eight,” where his inhumane treatment in court—being bound and gagged—drew international condemnation and highlighted the systemic injustices facing Black activists; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Bobby Seale launched a historic mayoral campaign in Oakland, inspiring thousands of new Black and working-class voters to register, engage, and believe in the power of local governance, laying a powerful foundation for future Black political leadership; and

WHEREAS, the civic infrastructure and political momentum built by Seale’s campaign and the Black Panther Party’s organizing directly contributed to the successful election of Lionel Wilson in 1977, who became the first Black mayor of the City of Oakland, a victory Mayor Wilson attributed in part to the influence and efforts of the Panthers; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Seale has continued throughout his life to speak, teach, write, and organize in the name of justice, equity, and liberation, authoring books such as *Seize the Time* and *A Lonely Rage*, and remaining a steadfast figure in civil rights history; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to commemoratively rename the intersection of 57th Street and Martin Luther King Junior Way as “Bobby Seale Way” and intends that the costs associated with such a commemorative act will be borne by the office of Councilmember Zac Unger; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Seale’s visionary leadership and fearless activism have not only transformed Oakland but have left a lasting impact on national movements for racial and economic justice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Oakland City Council hereby honors and recognizes Bobby Seale for his trailblazing contributions to the advancement of Black political power, his enduring legacy as a civil rights leader, and his transformative work that reshaped the social and political fabric of Oakland and the nation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Oakland City Council does hereby declare October 22nd of each year as “Bobby Seale Day” in the City of Oakland, in celebration of his life, legacy, and continued influence, and encourages all residents to reflect on and advance the principles of justice, equity, and empowerment that Bobby Seale stood for: and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Oakland City Council approves the commemorative renaming of the intersection at 57th Street and Martin Luther King Junior Way as “Bobby Seale Way;” and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council directs the City Administrator to proceed with the commemorative designation of “Bobby Seale Way” and placement of street sign(s) or plaque(s) to that effect, upon payment of costs.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROWN, FIFE, GALLO, HOUSTON, RAMACHANDRAN, UNGER, WANG, AND
PRESIDENT JENKINS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California

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