

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2012 DEC -6 PM 4:33

Approved as to Form and Legality

Oakland City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.
INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JANE BRUNNER

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE APOLLO CLASS OF 1981 FROM OAKLAND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, ON THE 30TH YEAR OBSERVANCE OF CALIFORNIA'S DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY HOLIDAY, FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE CREATION OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY HOLIDAY AND THEIR FURTHER EFFORT TO ESTABLISH JANUARY AS NATIONAL KING MONTH, BY ESTABLISHING "OAKLAND'S MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MONTH" BEGINNING JANUARY 2013

WHEREAS, thirty years, after the fact, has not diminished the luster cast upon our city by a small group of our students: "The Apollos", Oakland Technical High School's Class of 1981, who were the initiators in creating California's "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday", some four years before this country established a National King Holiday, and;

WHEREAS, the lobbying efforts of the Apollo's Political Action Committee (PAC), which was composed primarily of their class officers: Chair Gwendolyn (Lovely) Patterson, Apollo Vice President; [an Oakland Teacher] Vice Chair Sonia (Lyons) Sumler, Apollo Secretary; and [also an Oakland Teacher] Karen (Kennedy) Freeman, Apollo Treasurer; and PAC Members/Apollos: Leroy Bradford, Donzette (Dunham) Chuckwurah, and Tay McArthur, their four year (and continuing) Class Advisor. They were the core members who made it happen over a twenty two months period, and;

WHEREAS, during 1980, Apollo's PAC demonstrated what would be an amazing degree of political acumen. They rallied the formidable and enthusiastic support of Oakland City Council, The Oakland Education Association, The Oakland Board of Education, and The Alameda County Board of Supervisors. In addition, Apollo's PAC was able to gain the support of The California Teachers Association (CTA) and National Education Association (NEA), and;

WHEREAS, a number of public officials supported the Apollos, such as their legislation's authors, State Assemblyman Elihu Harris (who introduced California's: AB312) and State Senator Nick Petris; on The Council, Mary Moore, Marge Gibson and Mayor Lionel Wilson; The School Board, Peggy Stinnett; The County Board of Supervisors, John George, and;

WHEREAS, the “Apollo Bill” was introduced in January of 1981 and moved through the “Halls of Power,” in Sacramento. The students were there every step of the way, lobbying each uncommitted vote, testifying at two Committee hearings, and cheering as it passed the Assembly a week before they graduated that June. Their pursuit continued into the summer where it became a bit more challenging on the Senate floor but Senator Nick Petris fought it through to a successful vote, midst shouts, cheers, and some tears from a jammed Senate Chamber, and;

WHEREAS, Governor Brown signed it into law on September 3rd in his jam packed Conference Room with eleven members of the Fourth Estate recording it for posterity, for local TV and Bay Area and national press that all picked up the praise given by Elihu Harris to the Apollos, in attendance, as being the statewide force behind his legislation. The Governor requested that the ceremony be repeated in Oakland City Hall the day before the Holiday was first celebrated, on January 15, 1982, to recognize both the Apollo students and their City “where it all began.” It was a fine, culminating day: “Apollo Day in Oakland” by Mayoral Proclamation, and;

WHEREAS, continuing in their own footsteps of civic promotions by sponsoring, with the Apollo II Class of 1985 the “National Students for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday” and through this Council, with the “Oakland Tech Landmarkers”, established Oakland Technical High School as an “Oakland City Landmark” and with the Apollo III Class of 1989 “The Tech Preservationists” (Tech’s granite, Broadway, “Landmark Plaza” monument), and their establishing the “National Student Historical Preservation Association”, subsequently both State and National “Decades of Historic Preservation”, Tech’s 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration, and this Council’s Resolution establishing Oakland’s “King Week ’93”, and returning to their roots as California’s creators of the King Holiday, the 20th and 25th celebratory anniversary observances of “their holiday”, first in January 2002 on the front steps at Tech with a Mayoral Proclamation by Mayor Jerry Brown and then in January 2007 at these chambers, with a City Council Proclamation and the first public showing of the video documentary, “The Apollos” (YouTube), which depicts how the 16-17 year old students of Tech made legislative history, and;

WHEREAS, the newest endeavor of this cohesive core group of political activists, from 1981, is to promote and stimulate awareness of the basic human rights ideals promulgated, for everyone in this country and around the world, by Dr. King for more than just the few days currently observed at a “third Monday” point between January 15th (his actual birthday) and the 21st by broadening this too brief a weekend acknowledgement to a season of remembrance---proclaiming, TO THE NATION, “January as ‘National King Month’” (more formally: “Martin Luther King, Jr. Month”) with a National drive beginning here in Oakland, California and spreading across the State, from here, to the Legislature in Sacramento, to many other State capitols and to the Congress of the United States in Washington, DC, now; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Mayor, City Council, and the City Administrator warmly recognize the singular role played by Oakland Technical High School’s Class of 1981 “Apollos” Political Action Committee in creating California’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday and their continuing civic contributions to our City; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Council endorses the “Apollos” Political Action Committee’s Local, State and National drive to solidly perpetuate the “King Legacy” by establishing the month of January as “National Martin Luther King, Jr. Month”, with our own establishment, in perpetuity, of “Oakland’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Month” with its very first observance in the Nation being in Oakland, California, in the month of January 2013, and to share our endorsement with Oakland’s State and Congressional Legislators, for their further action; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, suitably inscribed, shall be presented to the Apollo Class of 1981 Political Action Committee in recognition for their continuing achievements and their many contributions to our community, state, and nation.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2012.

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, SCHAAF, AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

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