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Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020

To: Members of the City Council

Cc: Ed Reiskin, City Administrator
Barbara Parker, City Attorney

From: Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney

Re: Dr. Huey P Newton Way

Colleagues:

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this legislation on behalf of the Huey Newton Foundation to commemoratively rename 9th St. between Center St. and Chester St. as 'Dr. Huey P. Newton Way'.

In the pantheon of great political movements, the leadership of the Black Panther Party occupies a wing all their own. The strategy of the Black Panther Party was formulated primarily under the guidance of co-founder Dr. Huey P. Newton who emerged as a central figure of the international revolutionary left during the 1960s and 1970s. Under Huey's revolutionary leadership, the Black Panther Party became the most important urban mass movement organization of the 20th century, borrowing liberally from a spectrum of Black organizational politics while forging an ideology all their own.

The Black Panther Party's impact internationally is as undeniable as Huey's reverberating impact right here in Oakland. Dr. Newton's strategic vision incorporated the insights of Malcolm X with the mass mobilization techniques of the Civil Rights and early Black Power movements. He pushed the Party to bring to its urban constituency a consistently revolutionary ideological position that combined Black self-determination with the willingness to work in coalition with allied groups representing the interests of oppressed people along race and class lines, nationally and internationally. Unfortunately, there is a dearth of markers, plaques, and monuments dedicated to upholding a legacy in Oakland that the People have always held up and honored.

On August 22nd, 1989 Dr. Huey P. Newton was slain at the corner of 9th and Center Streets in West Oakland. The Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation, under the leadership of former Black Panther Fredrika Newton, is proposing to honor our fallen comrade by renaming the street where he was taken and erecting a commemorative art piece to honor Huey's international impact.

I'm delighted to champion the community's request to install commemorative street signs on the block where Dr. Huey P. Newton was taken from us. Please find attached the enabling resolution



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for the commemorative renaming which follows the process outlined by Resolution No. 77967
C.M.S.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynette".

Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney

