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## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

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

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS DAN KALB AND LYNETTE GIBSON-MCELHANEY

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**A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION HONORING AZARIAH COLE-SHEPHARD FOR RECEIVING 2016 YOUTH POET LAUREATE AND FOR HER ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF OAKLAND**

**WHEREAS**, Azariah Cole-Shephard has been selected as the 2016 Youth Poet Laureate in a highly competitive process judged by accomplished authors, educators and community leaders for her captivating, educational and bold way of depicting the daily struggles that Oakland youth face while inspiring her peers to get engaged and to build a stronger sense of community; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Cole-Shephard has just graduated from Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy where she was on the honor roll, served as captain of the debate team, and mentored and tutored other students; and

**WHEREAS**, As a 2016 Youth Poet Laureate, Azariah Cole-Shephard has received a year of mentorship and guidance from Youth Speaks and the Oakland Public Library, two nonprofit organizations partnering to advance the Youth Poet Laureate Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Through Youth Speaks and the Oakland Public Library mentorship, Azariah Cole-Shephard has been able to amplify her platform through numerous media interviews and public performances.

**WHEREAS**, Azariah's widely celebrated piece "For The Black Men My Love Cannot Protect" was performed and well-received at the "Policing the Police" event at the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco; and

**WHEREAS**, Azariah Cole-Shephard has also performed at the Black Panthers 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, at the African American Museum and Library Advisory Commission Annual Celebration, at the "Life is Living Festival" in West Oakland, at the Black College Awareness Fair at Stanford University and the Laurel Street Fair and other events; and

**WHEREAS**, Azariah Cole-Shephard has been awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship through the Oakland Public Library, which goes toward her studies at Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering at San Jose State University where

Azariah Cole-Shephard plans to study electrical engineering and hopes to minor in African Diaspora Studies; and

**WHEREAS**, Azariah Cole-Shephard has made and continues to make immense and meaningful artistic contributions to the City of Oakland and to Oakland's youth; and

**WHEREAS**, Azariah Cole-Shephard continues to move the broader community to take action against social injustices through her campus activism at San Jose State University; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**: That the City Council does hereby warmly congratulate and honor Azariah Cole-Shephard for being the Oakland's 2016 Youth Poet Laureate and for her ongoing contributions and support for youth education and leadership in Oakland's schools and beyond.

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:

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LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California