

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATIVELY RENAMING 9TH STREET BETWEEN CENTER ST. AND CHESTER ST. AS 'DR. HUEY P. NEWTON WAY' PER THE PROCESS ESTABLISHED BY RES. NO. 77967 C.M.S.

WHEREAS, an application has been submitted to the Office of City Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney by the leadership of the Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation requesting the commemorative street naming of 9th Street between Center and Chester Streets as Dr. Huey P. Newton Way; and

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, the City Council will occasionally honor the contributions of an outstanding individual with commemorative street names or by the renaming of a public street such as with Joe Morgan Way, Herbert Guice Way, and Peter Van Kleef Way; and

WHEREAS, the City Council in 2003 established procedures for commemorative street naming through Resolution No. 77967 C.M.S under which the City Council may, by its own motion, consider the renaming of a public street as a tribute to an individual, or as a result of a significant event or activity and one of the following conditions is met:

- the individual has positively impacted the lives of a nation or the world; or
- the name change is related to an economic development or redevelopment activity; or
- the renaming commemorates a significant historical event; and

WHEREAS, under the procedures outlined by the companion Resolutions No. 77966 and 77967 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, the Council of the City of Oakland did meet and did receive public testimony and did deliberate on the provisions set forth in Resolution No 77967 C.M.S. for evaluation of street commemorations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that Dr. Huey P. Newton's (1942 –1989) contributions to the international community eminently merit commemoration:

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.

WHEREAS, the City Council intends to honor Dr. Huey P. Newton's contribution to Oakland and the world by retaining the existing street name and installing commemorative plaques or signs and intends that the costs associated with such

a commemorative act will be born by the Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the Council of the City of Oakland hereby approves the commemorative renaming of 9th St. between Center St. and Chester St. as 'Dr. Huey P. Newton Way'; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council directs the City Administrator to proceed with the commemorative designation of 'Dr. Huey P. Newton Way' and placement of sign(s) or plaque(s) to that effect on 9th St. between Center and Chester streets.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

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