



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER KALB

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY
BILL 1550 (BONTA) TO END DISCRIMINATORY 911 CALLS BASED
ON A PERSON'S RACE, RELIGION, SEX OR ANY OTHER
PROTECTED CLASS BY MAKING SUCH CALLS HATE CRIMES AND
ESTABLISHING CIVIL LIABILITY.**

WHEREAS, false racist and discriminatory 911 calls are dangerous and demeaning to the person falsely accused; and

WHEREAS, across the country a number of high-profile cases have occurred where people have called the police on Black men for simply living their lives. Individuals calling police on a Black man birdwatching in New York City and calling 911 on a Black man dancing in the City of Alameda have highlighted discriminatory 911 calls involving protected classes such as race; and

WHEREAS, here in Oakland, in April of 2018, a woman nicknamed "BBQ Becky" as a result of this incident, called 911 on Black men using a charcoal grill at Lake Merritt's designated grilling zone saying to the 911 operator: "I'm really scared! Come quick!"; and

WHEREAS, such 911 calls deteriorate the relationships between Black communities and law enforcement by criminalizing behavior that is not criminal, weaponizing the police against Black communities and other marginalized groups, and by falsely accusing individuals of crimes that have not occurred; and

WHEREAS, AB 1550 will address this issue by making certain baseless and discriminatory 911 calls a felony hate crime in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, AB 1550 will protect many Californians from becoming targets of hate based on race or ethnicity, gender, disability, nationality, religion or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, AB 1550 will create civil liability and give a vehicle for victims of false and discriminatory 911 calls to pursue civil recourse; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby endorses AB 1550 and urges the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom to support its enactment into law.

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