

Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 88407 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS SHENG THAO AND LOREN TAYLOR

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### RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF ARCHBISHOP ABUNE MELKETSEDEK FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO PEACE, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**WHEREAS**, Archbishop Abune Melketsedek was born on July 19, 1924 as Liqe Siltanat Abba Habte Mariam Workineh; and

**WHEREAS**, Archbishop Abune Melketsedek became a deacon at age eleven, a monk at age fifteen, and served the Ethiopian Orthodox Church for eighty-one years; and

**WHEREAS**, Archbishop Abune Melketsedek's life saw him learn and work throughout the world, and was a prominent advisor to Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I; and

**WHEREAS**, Archbishop Abune Melketsedek championed human rights throughout his tenure, published nineteen books, and worked to increase the involvement of women in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church; and

**WHEREAS**, Archbishop Abune Melketsedek was imprisoned for seven years as a result of the military junta in Ethiopia, and eventually emigrated to the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, since arriving in the United States, Archbishop Abune Melketsedek has been a pillar of the Ethiopian Community in the Bay Area, including helping to establish the first Ethiopian Orthodox Church in the Bay Area, Medhan Alem Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Berkeley; and

**WHEREAS**, Archbishop Abune Melketsedek established Ethiopian Orthodox Churches across the United States that have served as a place for many Ethiopians to congregate and support one another; and

**WHEREAS**, Archbishop Abune Melketsedek fought to move Ethiopia away from military government and to become a more democratic state; and

**WHEREAS**, Archbishop Abune Melkisedek has been recognized and honored for his work by Representative Barbara Lee, Mayor Ed Lee, and the California State Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, Archbishop Abune Melkisedek passed away on November 7, 2020 at the age of 97; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City Council recognizes Archbishop Abune Melkisedek for his long and impressive life, his place in the Ethiopian-American community, and his dedication to peace, education, and human rights.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

DEC 0 1 2020

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

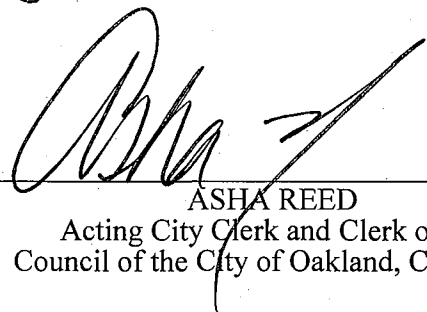
AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN - 8

NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

ATTEST:

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