

Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS SHENG THAO AND LOREN TAYLOR

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,

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

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