

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

RESOLUTION No. _____ C. M. S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER Nancy J. Nadel

Resolution for the 50th Anniversary of the Intertribal Friendship House

WHEREAS, fifty years ago, on July 9, 1955, the Intertribal Friendship House was established and since 1964 at its current location at 523 International Boulevard by the American Friends Service Committee; and

WHEREAS, In the 1950s, Native people from all over the United States were uprooted from their reservations and relegated to the San Francisco Bay Area as part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Relocation Program; and

WHEREAS, Oakland was a major destination of this program, and once there, Indian people arriving from rural and reservation areas had to adjust to urban living; and

WHEREAS, the Intertribal Friendship House in Oakland became a sanctuary during times of upheaval in people's lives and the heart of a vibrant American Indian community; and

WHEREAS, the Intertribal Friendship House is the one of the oldest urban Indian organizations in the country, and continues to serve as a gathering place for newcomers as well as for the descendants of families who arrived half a century ago; and

WHEREAS, it has also served as the meeting place and organizing center for American Indian activism of the 1960s and '70s—including the occupation of Alcatraz, the initiation of the Long Walk, and the creation of the Survival School, among many other events and actions that had far-reaching effects nationally, many of which continue today; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Indian community is multi-tribal, made of Native people and their descendants—those who originate here and those who have come to the Bay region from all over the United States and from other parts of this hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, the Indian community, as the aboriginal community of these lands, continues to be underserved, and continues to suffer the repercussions from the effects of colonization and the persecution that resulted from the settlement of the Americas; and

WHEREAS, contributions from the Indian community, both locally, nationally, and internationally, are frequently overlooked; and

WHEREAS, The Intertribal Friendship House has been more than an organization and has served as the heart of a vibrant tribal community that continues the struggle for civil rights and indigenous sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, On July 9, 2005, the Intertribal Friendship House hosted a kickoff, with subsequent anniversary events to take place throughout the year, to commemorate fifty years of community service to the Bay Area American Indian community; now therefore be it

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ORA/COUNCIL
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