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City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. 84809 CMS

### INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER NOEL GALLO

**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING WALTER CRAVEN FOR THE SERVICE PROVIDED TO OAKLAND AS A BUSINESS MAN AND OWNER OF BLANK AND CABLES AND NORTON FACTORY STUDIOS AND FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE CITY OF OAKLAND AS A COMMUNITY PARTNER AND VOLUNTEER**

**WHEREAS**, Walter Craven was born in South Boston, MA in 1971 and is the son of a talented metal smith, and

**WHEREAS**, Walter Craven spent years at his parent's manufacturing company developing and honing his skills in architectural metal fabrication, and

**WHEREAS**, Walter Craven originally entered the Rhode Island School of Design's Architecture Program, then transferred to the Sculpture Program in his second year, and

**WHEREAS**, after graduating with a BFA in Sculpture, Walter began planning the opening of his own design and production studio where he could rapidly prototype his own designs and challenge his knowledge of production by fabricating for other designers, and

**WHEREAS**, in 1996 Walter Craven founded Blank and Cables, a fabrication studio, to invent and rapidly prototype his ideas, and

**WHEREAS**, since opening its doors, Blank and Cables has become one of the West Coast's premiere firms for production of original furniture and architectural designs in metal and mixed material, and

**WHEREAS**, Blank and Cables offers internships within the company to both local and national schools, to help teach the thinking and making of things is a big part of the foundation and the belief of the company, and

**WHEREAS**, in 1999, Walter began producing an original line of furniture to acclaim by both the media and the design community, with its signature pieces included in several design exhibits as well as the Museum of Modern Art San Francisco's permanent collection, and

**WHEREAS**, Walter Craven's work has been shown at Ohio's Wexner Center for the Arts and has also exhibited his designs in New York, Milan, London, Tokyo and Germany, and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, Walter Craven relocated Blank and Cables to the Fruitvale district of Oakland, whereby a major restoration of 4 factory buildings began, known as the Norton Factory Studios, and

**WHEREAS**, Walter Craven owns and operates the Norton Factory Studios in the Fruitvale District, which provide private studios for local artist to further their practice, and

**WHEREAS**, Walter Craven commissioned several local artist to design and paint on the side of all of the buildings combined one of the longest murals in Oakland, which spans almost 400 continuous feet facing east 12<sup>th</sup> street and Fruitvale Avenue, and

**WHEREAS**, Walter Craven is a community partner invested in the community who believe that the best is yet to come from the commitment of local business owners to their community, now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland acknowledges Walter Craven for the services provide to Oakland as a business man and for his commitment to improve the City of Oakland as a community partner

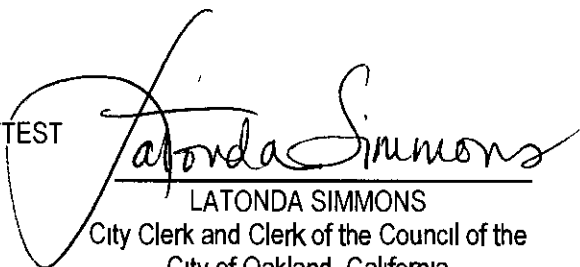
IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

**FEB - 4 2014**

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF, AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN - 8

NOES - 0  
ABSENT - 0  
ABSTENTION - 0

ATTEST   
LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California