

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KEVIN JENKINS

RESOLUTION HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LASTING LEGACY OF COACH JOHN BEAM

WHEREAS, Coach John Beam faithfully served the Laney College Eagles starting in 2004. Initially serving as a Running Back Coach, he rose to Offensive Coordinator the following year. Throughout the duration of his 20+ years, his leadership successfully propelled the Eagles to win three championships and five consecutive bowl appearances, which marked the beginning of a transformative era of excellence for the program; and

WHEREAS, Coach Beam stepped into the honorable role of Head Football Coach in 2012, where he continued to elevate the standard of the Laney Football Program. He guided the Eagles to secure two league titles, earn a .600 winning percentage, compete in 14 bowl games, obtain three CCCAAA playoff berths, win a State Championship, and was even honored as CCCAA Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Coach Beam was instrumental in the Laney College football team to achieve national recognition on Netflix's *Last Chance U* in 2020, where the resilience and perseverance of his student-athletes were featured. Additionally, he contributed to the 2025 short film *First Chance, Best Chance U*, which captured his life and legacy; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his 45+ year coaching career and Laney College and Skyline High School, Coach beam mentored over 2,500+ student-athletes, led them through over 500+ games (239 of which were victories), and helped cultivate over 30+ NLF players – 7 of which participated in the Super Bowl – along with profound participation in the NCAA, the Canadian Grey Cup, and NFL Europe; and

WHEREAS, Coach Beam's remarkable influence across generations extends far beyond the football field. His deepest and most enduring impact was constructing a football program that is today distinguished by a 90% graduation and transfer rate. His former students –now leaders in business, public service, medicine, education, and the arts – uplift the lessons he instilled: to work with dignity and purpose, persevere through challenges, encourage others, and believe in oneself; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Oakland City Council, hereby honors Coach Beam's exceptional legacy of heroic mentorship, leadership, compassion, and service to the City of Oakland. In his memory, may we dedicate ourselves to advocating for safer neighborhoods, supporting victims of violence, and championing a better tomorrow for our youth.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES -

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____

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

