

2015 OCT -1 PM 3:16

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. 85756 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

HONORING CITY OF OAKLAND YOUTH POET LAUREATES SOPHIE ELKIN (2014) AND TOVA RICARDO (2015)

WHEREAS, the Youth Poet Laureate contest was created by the Oakland Public Library, Youth Speaks, and many other community organizations in 2012; and

WHEREAS, applicants must submit 3 -5 original poems showing excellence, originality, creative risk-taking, and authenticity of which a select group of youth poets are invited to compete in the final round before a live audience;

WHEREAS, the Youth Poet Laureate contest annually recognizes 1 youth for distinction in poetry with the esteemed title and a \$5,000 college scholarship; and

WHEREAS, the popularity and interest for the Youth Poet Laureate contest continues to grow, with a record number 53 applicants vying for the City's top literary honor in 2015; and

WHEREAS, poet, storyteller, activist, and spoken word artist **Sophie Elkin** has performed at numerous venues and festivals, is a graduate of Oakland School for the Arts who currently attends Laney College, and was lauded by United States Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera as a "word master and performance magician"; and

WHEREAS, **Tova Ricardo**, 16, is a junior at Bentley High School who began writing poetry in 6th grade, and whose poetry focuses on issues of race, gender, sexuality, family dynamics, community, and social stigma; and

WHEREAS, Sophie Elkin and Tova Ricardo serve as ambassadors of literacy for the City of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, The Youth Poet Laureate program is one of many ways that the Oakland Public Library informs, inspires, and delights our diverse community as a resource for information, knowledge, and artistic and literary expression, providing the best in traditional services, new technologies, and innovative programs; and be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland expresses sincere gratitude, appreciation, and pride to: Sophie Elkin, Youth Poet Laureate of 2014; and Tova Ricardo, Youth Poet Laureate of 2015.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, *September 8, 2015*

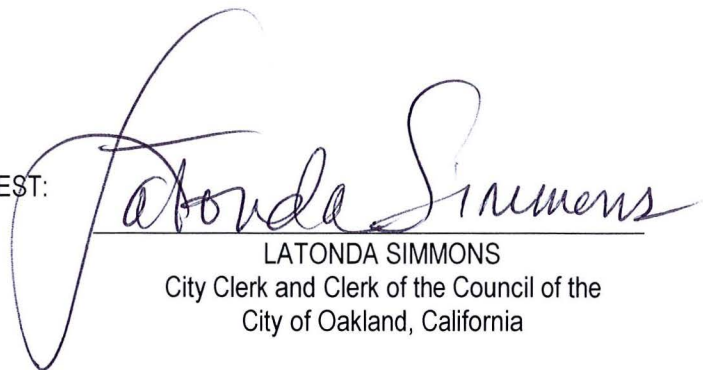
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN, ~~REID~~ AND PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY *-7*

NOES - *Ø*
ABSENT - *Ø*
ABSTENTION - *Ø*

Excused - Reid - 1

ATTEST:


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