OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO._____80354_____C.M.S.

Introduced by: <u>Councilmember Nancy J. Nadel</u>

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING IMMEDIATE ALLOCATION OF ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($1,500.⁰⁰) OF COUNCILMEMBER NANCY J. NADEL'S PRIORITY PROJECT FUNDS TO THE ATTITUDINAL HEALING CONNECTION ("AHC") OF OAKLAND, AS FISCAL SPONSOR FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR OAKLAND YOUTH ("RJOY"), FOR GRANT-WRITING SERVICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICES IN OAKLAND

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2006, the City Council amended the 2005-2007 Policy Budget for the City of Oakland to allocate $250,000 for each Councilmember to use as priority funds for projects at each councilmember's discretion, subject to City Council approval; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Nancy J. Nadel has identified the Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc. ("AHC") as a recipient for $1,500 of these funds, as Fiscal Sponsor for Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY); and

WHEREAS, AHC was founded in Oakland in 1989 and serves an important public interest in working to eliminate violence and fear by creating spiritual and educational programs which incorporate art, health, diversity, and social justice in order to build peaceful and loving communities; and

WHEREAS, AHC offers RJOY fiscal agent services and use of its facilities for office space, regular RJOY meetings, and other RJOY activities; and

WHEREAS, RJOY organizes and hosts restorative justice trainings for a wide range of community members and professionals who work with youth; and

WHEREAS, many of our young people are caught up in a criminal justice system which is not only cruel and punitive, but also fails to offer opportunities for redemption, rehabilitation, and restoration; and

WHEREAS, RJOY is an Oakland-based group of community organizations, lawyers, judges, policy makers, educators, elected officials, youth, and other community members who believe that it is time to fundamentally shift the way society responds to wrongdoing in our communities by developing approaches which repair harm and bring about community reconciliation as well as offender accountability, instead of focusing solely on blame and punishment; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice redefines the way justice systems address public safety, sanctioning, and rehabilitation with the overarching goal of reintegrating those affected by wrongdoing — whether victim or offender— back into the community as resilient and responsible members; and

WHEREAS, a rapidly growing number of restorative justice programs in schools throughout the world are proving to be effective means of reducing violence and recidivism; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice programs in the criminal justice context have similarly proven effective in reducing recidivism, such as the program in New Zealand where, pursuant to the Children, Young Persons And Their Families Act of 1989, the youth criminal justice system is now entirely restorative and only 11% of youth offenders are imprisoned, with the result that New Zealand is now closing its youth prisons; and

WHEREAS, RJOY seeks to implement restorative justice methods in Oakland which already have been demonstrated elsewhere to be effective means of reducing violence, truancy, suspensions, expulsions, and promote community healing and transformation in general; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That $1,500 of Councilmember Nancy J. Nadel's Priority Project Funds shall be apportioned to Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc. ("AHC"), on behalf of Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth ("RJOY"), at the earliest possible time, to be used for grant-writing services to develop and implement restorative justice practices in Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____ **JAN 1 6 2007** _____, 20_____
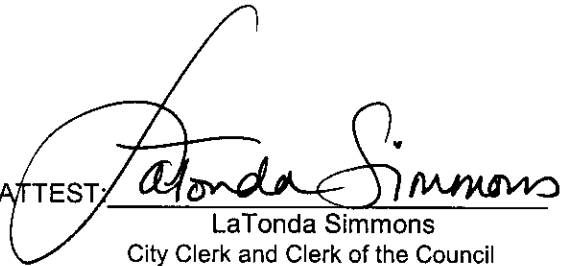
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and PRESIDENT
       DE LA FUENTE — 8

NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION – 0

ATTEST: _____
LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California