

W. Manna
Oakland City Attorney's Office

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OAKLAND

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

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Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember Patricia Kernighan

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CITY OF OAKLAND STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS ON THE MORCOM ROSE GARDEN'S ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ALL-AMERICA ROSE SELECTION'S ACCREDITED PUBLIC GARDENS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland's Morcom Rose Garden was constructed in 1932 as a project of the Works Progress Administration, was named in honor of former Oakland mayor Fred N. Morcom, and today features winding walkways, a reflecting pool, a cascading fountain, a wedding terrace, and hundreds upon hundreds of roses; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland City Council recognizes the Morcom Rose Garden as a sanctuary for people and wildlife, providing a rare quality of peace and tranquility to refresh the spirit of all who enter; and

WHEREAS, the visitors to the Morcom Rose Garden can learn from the extensive display of roses that have won the coveted designation of All-America Rose Selection-award winners; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of the Public Works Agency, City Park Supervisor and rosarian David Skinner, Gardener Crew Leader Victoria Rocha, and Gardeners Christian Boyle, John Demery and Mary Elias have worked tirelessly in recent years, applying their horticultural knowledge and skills to tend and renovate the Morcom Rose Garden, and providing leadership to spark the interest and involvement of numerous volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the dedicated gardening staff, amplified by volunteers working under their direction, have brought the Morcom Rose Garden to a flourishing condition not seen in many years; and

WHEREAS, key volunteers turn out each month for work days in the Morcom Rose Garden, including Bob Archibald, Jose Calderon, Tom Clark, Bruce Cobbledick, Cinnamon Daniels, Arvi Dorsey, Bruce Joffe, Maggie Kostoff, Pat Markovich, Mary Ellen Navas, Lewis Santer, Mary Stelletello, Tom Straus and Chris York as well as members of the East Bay Rose Society; and

WHEREAS, in recent years on Earth Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day hundreds of volunteers have spent thousands of hours removing weeds, and spreading mulch and fertilizer on the rose beds, and performing other gardening tasks throughout the Morcom Rose Garden; and

WHEREAS, would-be rose growers can take courage that they can grow AARS winning roses in their own gardens because the Morcom Rose Garden's conditions are those throughout the East Bay -- heavy clay soils, poor drainage, partial and full sun exposure, shady trees, and average maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the City applied for and has received temporary accreditation into the All-America Rose Selection's Public Gardens program – one of 125 AARS Public Gardens nationwide, based on the care given the Morcom Rose Garden and the display of AARS winning roses; and

WHEREAS, the AARS's Public Gardens Program is one of the most important ways to showcase to the general public the roses winning the coveted All-America Rose Selection designation one year prior to their retail availability; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Oakland City Council does hereby commend the City of Oakland's gardening staff and volunteers on their successful efforts at tending the Morcom Rose Garden, and congratulates them on achieving temporary accreditation as an All-America Rose Selection Public Garden; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Oakland City Council encourages the gardening staff and volunteers to keep up the good work so that the Morcom Rose Garden achieves permanent accreditation.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, **MAR 3 2009**
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL,
 QUAN, ~~REID~~ AND PRESIDENT BRUNNER, - 7

NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

Excused - Reid - 1

ATTEST:



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