

15 FEB -5 PM 4:07

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS FROM THROUGHOUT OAKLAND FOR BLACK HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH 2015: TENNESSEE REED, DR. WILLIAM LOVE, ARNOLD PERKINS, REVEREND HARRY LOUIS WILLIAMS, MR. CHARLES KING AND MRS. CELESTE KING, CARROLL FIFE, CAT BROOKS, JENNIFER JOHNS, KEV CHOICE, MS. GLADYS GREEN, ROBBIE CLARK AND JUST CAUSE, AND ERICKA HUGGINS.

WHEREAS, Black History Month was first commemorated in 1986 as an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of African Americans, to teach their contributions to students across America, and to make all Americans aware of the struggles for freedom and equal opportunity; and

WHEREAS, District 1 is honoring: **Tennessee Reed**, an internationally recognized, published poet, writer and photographer, with a Master of Fine Arts degree from Mills College in Creative Writing, who is the author of six collections of poetry including a memoir titled "*Spell Albuquerque Memoir of a 'Difficult' Student*," the Managing Editor of *Konch Magazine*, and Secretary of PEN Oakland—the local chapter of one of the world's oldest literary and human rights organizations; and

WHEREAS, District 2 is honoring: **Dr. William Love**, raised in West Oakland and current resident of District 2, has served on the Peralta Colleges faculty for four decades and has been recognized as a community champion for the following accomplishments: as an American Council of Education fellow, as a two-time "Teacher of the Year" at Merritt College for his instruction and mentoring ability, as "the Personal Rock Star" of Merritt's Street Scholars Peer Mentoring Program, which helps formerly incarcerated students achieve academic success, as the Chair of the Transportation Committee of the Citizens Emergency Relief Team (CERT), which pushed for the transformation of the old Cypress corridor destroyed during the Loma Prieta earthquake into an elegant, landscaped boulevard, and as an eloquent advocate for civil rights and social justice, believing that "We will survive as long as we continue to love each other and teach each other;" and

WHEREAS, District 3 is honoring: **Arnold Perkins, MPH** successfully served as Director of the Alameda County Public Health Department from 1994 to 2006, where he oversaw a budget of \$105 million dollars and 500 employees,

and also directly served the City of Oakland under Mayor Dellums by developing violence prevention programs, and whose commendable volunteerism includes leadership on numerous boards, including Youth Radio and The Mentoring Center, all of which earned him the honor of the San Francisco Foundation's Community Leadership Award in 2007; and

WHEREAS, District 4 is honoring **Reverend Harry Louis Williams**; Reverend Williams is an Oakland leader with many accomplishments, including serving among clergy of Allen Temple Baptist Church in the prison ministry, as the teacher of urban sociology and hip-hop culture, as a steadfast activist striving to abolish human trafficking in Oakland, as an accomplished novelist, and as the CEO of Soul Shaker Publishing, Music and Film Works; and

WHEREAS, District 5 is honoring: **Mr. Charles King and Mrs. Celeste King**, who own and operate King's Boxing Gym in District 5, a community based gym established in 1984 that offers youth an alternative activity to deter criminal behavior in an effort to bring the sport of boxing to the community of Oakland, and who also serve as community leaders through weekly neighborhood beautification and cleanup projects; and

WHEREAS, District 6 is honoring: **Carroll Fife, Cat Brooks, Jennifer Johns, and Kev Choice** who are all remarkable grassroots leaders who strive to empower Oaklanders to express their opinions through protest, political activism, music, theater, and offer inspiration to the African American community and beyond for their bravery and commitment to social change; and

WHEREAS, District 7 is honoring: **Ms. Gladys Green**, who has served as a dedicated constituent, a community leader, and, as an advocate for helping those in her city, and, has served willingly and diligently as a member of the Community Action Agency Committee, and, as Chairperson of the Elmhurst Community Development Block Grant Committee, while serving in her immediate neighborhood with a true commitment to helping others, and making this City a better place to live, work, and play for over the past 20 years; and;

WHEREAS, the At-Large District is honoring: **Robbie Clark**, who was born and raised in Oakland and has been a relentless advocate for low-income residents, renters, and communities of color throughout Oakland as a part of her work with Just Cause, Causa Justa, a tenant's rights organization, as well as through her leadership in managing political campaigns to engage traditionally disenfranchised voters; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office is recognizing: Ericka Huggins, who in the late 1970's was a political prisoner for her leadership in the Black Panther Party, and for decades has been a pioneer in local education as the first black person, as well as the first woman, appointed to the Alameda County Board of Education, and through the dedication of her life to equality for all, she continues to teach today; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby honors and commends the following individuals in recognition of Black History and Heritage Month 2015:

- Tennessee Reed
- Dr. William Love
- Arnold Perkins
- Reverend Harry Louis Williams
- Mr. Charles King and Mrs. Celeste King
- Carroll Fife
- Cat Brooks
- Jennifer Johns
- Kev Choice
- Ms. Gladys Green
- Robbie Clark and Just Cause, Causa Justa
- Ericka Huggins

RESOLVED, these African American individuals are recognized for their courageous spirits, their innovation to address community challenges, and their steadfast commitment to social change, which have yielded great results that have strengthened, enhanced, and improved the City of Oakland through culture, religion, education and academics, activism and advocacy, art and music, public health, youth development, community building and volunteerism, and athletics.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

NOES -
ABSENT -
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

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