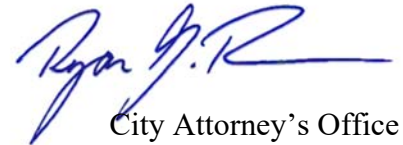


Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER TREVA REID

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**RESOLUTION HONORING KAREN BOYD FOR OVER 26 YEARS OF  
EXEMPLARY SERVICE AND CONGRATULATING HER ON A  
WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF OAKLAND**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2022, the City of Oakland bid farewell to one of its most dedicated public servants, Karen Boyd, who retired from the City after 26 years; and

**WHEREAS**, for more than two decades, she had the unique challenge and opportunity of advising Oakland's top officials and executive leaders - including five Mayors, two City Attorneys, and a dozen City Administrators - on a wide range of high-profile, complex, politically sensitive, and urgent issues; and

**WHEREAS**, over her career, Karen Boyd established herself as a trusted leader in the field of communications and public administration, highly regarded by her colleagues within the City organization as well as those from local governments and jurisdictions across the region; and

**WHEREAS**, her tremendous institutional memory for events and key issues in Oakland was a significant daily contribution to the countless elected officials, department heads, and City staff she worked alongside, as well as an immense asset to scores of local, state, national and international media members which she encountered, educated, and built often hard-earned relationships with through the years; and

**WHEREAS**, always poised and professional, Karen Boyd possessed a thoughtful eloquence that reflected her deep desire to see Oakland fulfill its mission and motto, in both private meetings and public forums she never wavered from her commitment to making sure that Oakland consistently aspire to be a city government that prioritizes diversity, equity, inclusion, and bold initiatives that are in the best long term interest of the residents and businesses it serves; and

**WHEREAS**, in good times and hard times, alike, Karen could always be counted on to be a collaborative voice of reason and a person who welcomed new voices and historically overlooked perspectives on challenges the City was facing and initiatives the City was advancing; and

**WHEREAS**, the issues she faced head on represent the greatest challenges of our day: the surge of unsheltered residents living on our streets resulting from the regional housing affordability crisis; police reform efforts stemming from two decades of Federal oversight of the Oakland Police Department; protests against police violence; exuberant Warriors parades with 1 million fans on Oakland streets; the tragic loss of 36 lives in the Ghost Ship fire; an eight-day labor strike; public safety power outages; Occupy Oakland; and the global COVID-19 pandemic that has exacerbated deep and long-standing health and economic racial disparities in our community, to name a few; and

**WHEREAS**, during each of these situations and a host of other crises, Karen Boyd, alongside many of her past and present communications colleagues from various City departments, tackled the challenge and crafted communications strategies to provide credible, timely, compassionate, and dependable information to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, while she proved her own worth day in and day out over the last 26 years, her greatest contribution to the City of Oakland may just be the legacy she will leave behind -- which is a robust, diverse, highly skilled and incredibly inspired citywide communications team made up of Public Information Officers and Communicators representing nearly every City department City; and

**WHEREAS**, the group which began meeting daily at the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic and now discusses all manner of issues, events and topics of the day, was largely curated and recruited by Karen, and the consistency and coordination that is occurring now within this collective represents an phenomenal shift in the value the City places on an informed populace and the manner in which it tells the story of this remarkable city; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the City wishes Karen success in all her future endeavors and we look forward to her continued involvement in activities and City assets such as Fairyland where she has served as a longtime board member; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Oakland City Council, and all those who served the City alongside Karen wish her a happy and healthy retirement from the City and offer our most heartfelt appreciation to Karen's family which resides in Oakland, which includes her loving wife Samee Roberts and their son Quinn.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES – FIFE, FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, JENKINS,  
RAMACHANDRAN AND REID

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

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