

MISSING EXECUTED LEGISLATION FORM

Resolution / Ordinance Number: 88696
City Council Meeting Date 6/15/21
Agenda Item No. # 2.18
Recorded Vote 8 Ayes

Status of Resolution/Ordinance:

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 Council amended legislation No signed version will be filed

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Notes (if any)

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APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

DRAFT

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL FIFE

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATIVELY RENAMING 2ND STREET BETWEEN BROADWAY AND FRANKLIN STREET AS 'DOROTHY KING WAY' PER THE PROCESS ESTABLISHED BY RES. NO. 77967 C.M.S.

WHEREAS, an application has been submitted by the Office of Councilmember Carroll Fife requesting the commemorative street naming of 2nd Street between Broadway and Franklin Street as Dorothy King Way; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 34091.1 allows a jurisdiction by resolution to name a new public street or to rename an existing public street; and

WHEREAS, the naming of a new public street or the renaming of an existing public street is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970; and

WHEREAS, the City Council will occasionally honor the contributions of an outstanding individual with commemorative street names or by the renaming of a public street such as with Joe Morgan Way, Herbert Guice Way, Peter Van Kleef Way, Dr. Huey P. Newton Way, and Deontae Bush Way; and

WHEREAS, the City Council in 2003 established procedures for commemorative street naming through Resolution No. 77967 C.M.S. under which the City Council may, by its own motion, consider the renaming of a public street as a tribute to an individual, or as a result of a significant event or activity and one of the following conditions is met:

- The individual has positively impacted the lives of a nation or the world; or
- The name change is related to an economic development or redevelopment activity; or
- The renaming commemorates a significant historical event; and

WHEREAS, under the procedures outlined by the companion Resolutions No. 77966 and 77967 the City Council may commemorate a nominee either by: a) retaining the existing street

name and installing commemorative plaques or signs; or 2) renaming the existing street for the individual and installing new street signs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council did meet and did receive public testimony from no less than three (3) community based organization and ten (10) unrelated individuals supporting the nomination and did deliberate on the provisions set forth in Resolution No. 77967 C.M.S. for evaluation of street name commemorations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that Ms. Dorothy King's (1951-2021) contributions to the Bay Area community eminently merit commemoration:

Dorothy King was born in Alabama and grew up in West Oakland, California with her seven sisters and one brother. She was raised in a community and culture where people took care of one another, as well as welcomed other family members into their homes when they were in need. Having watched her mother share with others over the years, it is not surprising why she was known for her advocacy and committed work attending to those less fortunate.

In 1973, King's mother, Dorothy Everett opened what became a string of family barbecue restaurants that spanned across the Bay Area from Oakland, Berkeley, Hayward, and San Francisco. King followed in her mother's footsteps and opened several barbecue establishments, one of which includes a restaurant that revitalized Oakland's Jack London Square. Against the odds, and the double jeopardy of being black and female, King's family pierced the glass ceiling of longevity for African Americans, women, and families in business. Everett and Jones Barbecue is now a third generation, and soon to be a fourth-generation business.

In 1979, New West Magazine's cover story on barbecue deemed Everett & Jones, "the barbecue against which all others anywhere must be judged." They declared, "The sauce defies the odds against such things with a successful mixture of heady fruit, sweetness and peppery clout."

King was not only famous for her family BBQ recipes, she was a well-known activist, community leader, and advocate for the homeless.

In 1989, King worked with Oakland Union of the Homeless and Dignity Housing West to organize a movement challenging the federal government to convert vacant houses into residences for the homeless. She and other activists were forced to be assertive in their actions to get resources and support because government agencies ignored requests to assist the homeless with shelter. After several meetings and other non-productive interactions, the group kicked-in the door of a vacant house and stayed there until Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agreed to give the houses to the homeless for one dollar. On one occasion, the police came to the house and King was arrested for trespassing. She deemed it a meager sacrifice that she and her comrades were willing to make on behalf of those who had been forced to sleep on the street while many government homes sat vacant.

King continued her advocacy even in the restaurant by making it a place where formerly incarcerated persons can obtain gainful employment. She felt it unfortunate that individuals pay their dues to society and return home with little or no opportunity to rebuild their lives. Dorothy always said she was a regular recipient of God's goodness, grace and mercy and had a responsibility to pay it forward. She firmly believed that some people need someone to believe in them and offer guidance and support as they try to transform their lives. That is why the restaurant keeps its doors open to men and women desiring to become productive members of society.

Several years ago, King began feeding over one hundred unhoused individuals every night, after hours, at her Jack London Square establishment, as well as hiring them along with those who were formerly incarcerated. It has always been her dream and desire for their family restaurant to be a launching pad for individuals seeking to rejoin the world of employment.

For many years, King's Jack London Square Restaurant has been known for hosting elected officials, celebrities and professional athletes who are pictured with King on the walls throughout the establishment. She welcomed such notables as Vice President Kamala Harris, former President Bill Clinton, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Steph and Ayesha Curry, Marshawn Lynch, Berry Gordy, LaToya London, and actresses Tasha Smith and Tyra Banks.

On Wednesday, March 17, 2021, Oakland's kitchen matriarch, the indelible Dorothy King transitioned. She is survived by her husband, John Jernegan, four daughters and two sons, grandchildren, her siblings and many other family members, friends, customers and the greater community – as well as her beloved Yorkshire Terrier, "Saucey."

King's legacy will continue through her children and the countless lives she has touched over the years.

WHEREAS, the City Council intends to honor Dorothy King's contribution to Oakland and the Bay Area by retaining the existing street name and installing commemorative plaques or signs and intends that the costs associated with such a commemorative act will be borne by Councilmember Carroll Fife; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Council of the City of Oakland hereby approves the commemorative renaming of 2nd Street between Broadway and Franklin Street as 'Dorothy King Way'; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council directs the City Administrator to proceed with the commemorative designation of 'Dorothy King Way' and placement of sign(s) or plaque(s) to that effect on 2nd Street between Broadway and Franklin Street.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST

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