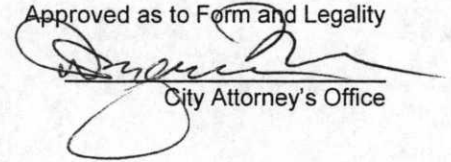


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Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

RESOLUTION TO HONOR LU VASON, FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE BILL PICKETT INVITATIONAL RODEO, ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ONLY TOURING AFRICAN AMERICAN RODEO IN AMERICA

WHEREAS, Lu Vason, a visionary and innovative leader in special events marketing, saw a need to educate people about the cultural contributions and instrumental role that African Americans played in the development of the American West; and

WHEREAS, Lu Vason, originally from Berkeley, CA, was introduced to the history and legacy of Bill Pickett during a visit to the Black American West Museum of History in Denver, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Pickett, an African American cowboy, was born in Texas in 1870 and created the rodeo move known as bull dogging or steer wrestling as a means of catching and bringing back cattle; and

WHEREAS, Bill Pickett and his four brothers established the Pickett Brothers Bronco Busters and Rough Riders Association and the name Bill Pickett soon became synonymous with successful rodeos; and

WHEREAS, in 1905, Bill Pickett joined the 101 Ranch Wild West Show that featured the likes of Buffalo Bill, Will Rogers and Tom Mix; and

WHEREAS, Bill Pickett was a popular performer who toured around the world and appeared in early motion pictures; and

WHEREAS, Lu Vason decided that the best way to illuminate the past would be through the real life example of contemporary black cowboys so he invited the best wranglers and riders and held the first Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo in 1984 in Denver, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, The Bill Picket Invitational Black Rodeo has delighted audiences and rodeo fans with their thrilling, professional rodeo competitions for 30 years across the country with stops in Denver, the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Memphis, TN and the National Finals in Washington DC; and

WHEREAS, competitors will battle to be named the best each season in Calf Roping, Bareback Riding, Bull Dogging, Ladies Barrel Racing, Junior Barrel Racing, Ladies Steer Undecorating, Bull Riding and the popular youth events; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Oakland congratulates Lu Vason for his visionary leadership as the originator and promoter of the nationally renowned Bill Pickett Invitational Black Rodeo, which is the only Black Touring Rodeo in the United States; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Oakland honors Lu Vason for 30 years of committed service and dedication to educating communities across the country about the outstanding contributions of African Americans to the development and growth of the American West.

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