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Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. 82309 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS DESLEY BROOKS, JEAN QUAN, NANCY NADEL

**RESOLUTION HONORING AILEEN MOFFITT, FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF
PRESCOTT CIRCUS THEATRE, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AND
CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS OF PRESCOTT CIRCUS THEATRE IN
WEST OAKLAND**

WHEREAS, Oakland native and resident, Aileen Moffitt began her career as an educator for the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) in 1973, following graduation from University of California, Berkeley, spending 27 years at Prescott Elementary School in West Oakland where she founded an after-school program, the Prescott Clown Troupe, in 1984-1985; and

WHEREAS, Aileen also worked part-time for Oakland Parks and Recreation as a Recreation Specialist and Assistant to the Director of the Annual Oakland Children's Christmas Pageant from 1968 to 1987 and founded the Summer Clownmobile Program from 1979 to 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Prescott Circus Theatre (PCT) is a unique and exciting after school arts enrichment and youth development program for Oakland children who learn to juggle, dance on stilts, ride unicycles, perform acrobatics, rhythmic body percussion "hambone", and balancing acts while gaining confidence and a sense of belonging to a team as they joyfully perform for over 25,000 people annually; and

WHEREAS, in 2000 Aileen left the classroom at the request of OUSD to bring the opportunity to expand this program to six additional schools: Lockwood, Piedmont Avenue, Garfield, Laurel, Parker, and Manzanita Schools, reaching over 200 children annually that includes the biennial production of "Higher Ground" a tribute to the African roots of stilt dancing featuring 50 Oakland youth dancing in front of City Hall; and

WHEREAS, that the ability to provide this program free to the participants these past 25 years is due to Aileen's tireless efforts in fundraising which has included substantial donations from local foundations and corporations, grants from the City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program, California Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts and contracts for services for afterschool programs funded through the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth; and fees for over 50 performances annually; and

WHEREAS, that following the support received first from Friends of Parks and Recreation, then by the Marcus A Foster Educational Institute acting as the fiduciary agents for Prescott Circus Theatre, the Youth Development Donor Circle awarded a capacity building grant to facilitate the formal establishment of Prescott Circus Theatre as its own non-profit organization as well as a transition and succession plan for Aileen's retirement; and

WHEREAS, in July 2009 Prescott Circus Theatre was incorporated as a 501c3 non-profit organization and a new Executive Director, Jennifer Ross, and Artistic Director-Prescott, Jamarr Woodruff were selected by the Board of Directors to join Program Director-Satellites, Christina Vecchiato so that Aileen's legacy will continue for years to come; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the elected officials, citizens and families of Prescott Circus Theater participants join in acknowledging Aileen Moffitt for her outstanding contributions to the children of Oakland, particularly in West Oakland and congratulates the Prescott Circus Theatre on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary and for providing children healthy opportunities to bring joy to the community...one smile at a time.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, OCT 6 2009, 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 - Brooks - 1

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