

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
C.M.S. OAKLAND
2009 JAN 29 PM 5:37

Introduced by Councilmember QUAN

DRAFT

RESOLUTION HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF REVEREND FATHER THOMAS J. PARIS, DEAN OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE ASCENSION ON LINCOLN BOULEVARD AFTER SERVING AS A GREEK ORTHODOX PRIEST FOR FORTY-EIGHT YEARS.

WHEREAS, the Reverend Father Thomas J. Paris, Dean of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension on Lincoln Boulevard, is retiring after celebrating forty-eight years as a Greek Orthodox priest, and

WHEREAS, since his arrival in Oakland in 1971, he has guided the growth of the Oakland parish into a congregation of 1200 families, the largest in the Metropolis, and

WHEREAS, in 1978 he established a large community center, recently renamed The Father Thomas J. Paris Events Center in recognition of his years of distinguished service to the parish, as well as a weekly Senior Center which recently celebrated its 30th year, and

WHEREAS, he helped organize the Festival of Greece that was begun at Lake Merritt in 1972 and now graces the Church grounds every May, and today is the largest Greek Festival in California, drawing from throughout the Bay Area, and

WHEREAS, he offered strong support for the two-year Firestorm Interfaith Recovery Efforts that grew into the Oakland Council of Congregations, and was a charter member and treasurer of the Interreligious Council of Oakland which provides a vehicle for the faith communities of the city to respond quickly to a host of local issues, and

WHEREAS, he was elected vice-president of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute in Berkeley and has served as its Chaplin for fifteen years, and

WHEREAS, he helped the local Ethiopian, Eritrean and Bulgarian parishes by offering his church's facilities for their worship, fellowship and cultural expression, as well as financial support for their clergy and helping hands in securing transportation, employment, clothing and financial aid for their refugees, and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the parish property was expanded and enhanced to include a new entrance, cascading ponds and fountain, a new courtyard and a refurbished exterior to the Koimisis Chapel, as well as a four-story parking pavilion topped by the Mike and Evelyn Kutsuris Platia, now therefore

RESOLVED: That Father Thomas J. Paris be honored by the members of the Oakland City Council for his ecumenical vision, outstanding leadership, and profound commitment to the rich diversity and caring community that is the City of Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20__

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, BRUNNER, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID AND
PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____

CEDA FLOYD
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California