

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

City Attorney

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER DESLEY BROOKS

TITLE: ADOPT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965.

WHEREAS, 1965 Voting Rights Act is one of America’s most important civil and human rights victories leading to political empowerment and voter enfranchisement; and

WHEREAS, key enforcement provisions of the Voting Rights Act will expire in August 2007 unless Congress acts to reauthorize them; and

WHEREAS, more than 454,000 Americans effectively gained the right to vote shortly after the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights act, voter participation in the past 10 congressional elections has stagnated between 36 percent and 39 percent, and America's average national election participation rate hovers at 50 percent; and

RESOLVED, that the City of Oakland, hereby declares its support for reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act; directs our Federal Lobbyist to include this matter as a legislative priority and to lobby appropriate officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Oakland City Council demands that President Bush and the Congress declare their public support for reauthorizing the voting rights act and its enforcement provisions to make America a more perfect union; and now, be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Administrator is directed to forward a copy of this resolution along with a cover letter to the California Congressional Delegation and President Bush advising them of the City’s position.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, December 2005.

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: _____

LA TONDA SIMMONS
Interim City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California