

CITY HALL • 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

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Additional Whereas Clauses Recognizing Black Oakland Residents, Reparational Harm, and Contributions

WHEREAS the City of Oakland recognizes that its identity, culture, economic strength, civic leadership, and social justice movements have been profoundly shaped by the generations of Black residents, families, workers, entrepreneurs, artists, faith leaders, activists, and community organizations who built and contributed to the foundation of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges the historic and ongoing harms experienced by Black communities resulting from slavery, racial segregation, discriminatory federal, state, and local policies, exclusionary housing practices, redlining, urban renewal displacement, discriminatory lending, and other systemic barriers that limited access to homeownership, wealth creation, education, employment, and economic opportunity; and

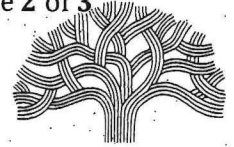
WHEREAS, the City recognizes that Black residents in Oakland experienced significant loss of land, housing stability, and generational wealth through racially discriminatory housing practices; including redlining, predatory lending, displacement pressures, and policies that contributed to the decline of Black homeownership and the forced displacement of longtime Oakland families; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges that the War on Drugs and related criminal justice policies disproportionately impacted Black Oakland residents, families, and neighborhoods, resulting in increased incarceration, barriers to employment, family separation, loss of economic mobility, and long-term community harm; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that despite these barriers, Black Oakland residents have demonstrated extraordinary resilience and leadership by advancing civil rights, building businesses, strengthening neighborhoods, creating cultural institutions, advocating for justice, and contributing to Oakland's reputation as a national center for equity, activism, and social change; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges that historical inequities have contributed to persistent disparities affecting Black residents, including disparities in housing access, contracting opportunities, business ownership, education, employment, health outcomes, and participation in emerging economic sectors; and

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WHEREAS, the City affirms that true refuge, belonging, and justice require the recognition and protection of all communities impacted by historic discrimination, including Black communities whose struggles for freedom, equality, and civil rights helped establish many of the protections and values Oakland embraces today; and

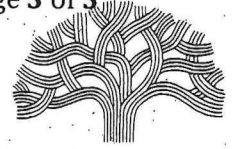
WHEREAS, the City is committed to advancing policies that address historic harms, promote restorative and reparative justice, expand equitable access to opportunity, and ensure that Black residents and future generations are included in Oakland's economic, cultural, and civic future; and

WHEREAS, Oakland's commitment to being a City of Refuge includes honoring the contributions, protecting the dignity, and affirming the humanity of all communities that have faced systemic exclusion, displacement, discrimination, or denial of equal opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland recognizes that honoring and celebrating its Black hometown heroes is more than an act of historical recognition—it is an investment in the City's future. By publicly acknowledging the achievements, resilience, innovation, and leadership of Black Oakland residents who have remained steadfast through decades of economic hardship, displacement, systemic discrimination, and social inequities, the City affirms that such recognition strengthens civic pride, preserves Oakland's cultural legacy, promotes cultural tourism, attracts investment, expands educational opportunities, supports Black-owned businesses, inspires future generations, and contributes to the creation of generational wealth and inclusive economic growth for Black communities and the City of Oakland as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the City honors the resilience of Black Oakland residents who remained rooted in the City through decades of economic hardship, displacement pressures, neighborhood change, and systemic inequities, and acknowledges their enduring contributions to preserving Oakland's history, culture, community strength, and legacy; and

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WHEREAS, the City affirms its commitment to uplifting and preserving these stories through civic recognition, including honoring Black leaders and community champions through the City of Oakland's Walk of Fame and other public acknowledgments that ensure current and future generations recognize the lasting impact of Black excellence, perseverance, and contributions to the City of Oakland.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Houston Son of Oakland
District 7 Councilmember