

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER RAMACHANDRAN**

---

**ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN CELEBRATION OF 125 YEARS OF THE LAUREL DISTRICT, HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LAUREL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION, AND DECLARING JUNE 12TH "LAUREL RECOGNITION DAY**

**WHEREAS**, the Laurel District in Oakland, California, has been a vibrant and diverse community for 125 years, fostering a sense of belonging and pride among its residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Laurel District Association (LDA) has played a pivotal role in shaping the district's identity, promoting local businesses, and enhancing the quality of life for all who call the Laurel home; and

**WHEREAS**, the LDA has tirelessly worked to revitalize the commercial corridor of the Laurel District, making it a hub for Oakland businesses, entrepreneurs, and artists; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual Laurel Street Fair, organized by the LDA, celebrates the immense talent and diverse culture of the region, bringing together thousands of people to MacArthur Blvd.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Laurel District boasts Oakland's most diverse business ownership, evident through its boutique retailers, authentic dining establishments, bars, bottle shops, spas, salons, and vast public art installations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Laurel Gateway Arches, designed and installed in 2006, symbolize the district's resilience, creativity, and community spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, MacArthur Blvd., the heart of the neighborhood, continues to thrive as a bustling shopping area with annual festivals and a rich tapestry of local shops; and

**WHEREAS**, the Laurel District has been home to historic landmarks, including the Laurel Theater (now a church), the Hopkins Cinema (now housing a Goodwill thrift store and an AutoZone auto parts store), and the Hilltop Tavern (a gathering place for local Native Americans during the mid-20th century); and

**WHEREAS**, the Laurel District has contributed to significant moments in Bay Area history, hosting early meetings of the American Indian Movement and playing a role in organizing the 1969 Occupation of Alcatraz; and

**WHEREAS**, the John Swett School site, now home to The Urban Montessori Charter School, holds a special place in the hearts of many, including actor Tom Hanks, who attended the elementary school; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Oakland officially recognizes June 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 As Laurel District Day in the City of Oakland and celebrates the 125th anniversary of the Laurel District, acknowledging its rich history, vibrant present, and promising future; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Laurel District Association is commended for its unwavering commitment to community development, economic growth, and cultural enrichment; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Oakland encourages residents, businesses, and visitors to continue supporting the Laurel District, fostering its unique character and contributing to its ongoing success.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, JENKINS, KALB, KAPLAN, RAMACHANDRAN, REID, AND  
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

ASHA REED  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California

