

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

City Attorney

05 007 - 01 01 **RESOLUTION No.** _____ **C.M.S.**

DRAFT

Introduced by Councilmember Nancy J. Nadel

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE 95th ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN IN CALIFORNIA WINNING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

WHEREAS, the women of California won the right to vote after a decade-long effort culminating on October 10, 1911, when a majority of California men voted for political equality and passed the woman suffrage amendment to the state Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the struggle for political liberty was waged without violence or animosity, speaking to the best in California men from all walks of life and finding support in all corners of the state; and

WHEREAS, California was only the sixth state in the nation to approve political equality, passing woman suffrage nine years before the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified; and

WHEREAS, with little central organization, supporters throughout the state worked in federation with each other, dividing up the state and the responsibilities of the intensive eight-month campaign to best utilize the abilities of all, winning the support of editors, teachers, ministers, the governor and Legislature, and finally a majority of the state's male voters; and

WHEREAS, the innovative California campaign broke new creative ground in promoting Votes for Women by incorporating the latest in advertising and publicity techniques including electric signs, automobile tours, giant billboards, open-air speeches, leaflets in five languages, colorful city-wide displays and countless other new means of outreach; and

WHEREAS, the enfranchisement of California women was ensured by farmers, business and working men in small towns, distant counties and rural areas who responded to the call to "Give your girl an equal chance with your boy" and overcame the opposition in the largest cities; and

WHEREAS, the amendment, initially thought to be defeated, triumphed after delayed returns from rural areas swung the election in the women's favor, passing by less than 1% of the vote, 125,037 to 121,450, an average margin of one in every voting precinct in state; and

WHEREAS, the victory in California doubled the number of women in the United States who could vote, offered new hope to supporters throughout the nation, and for a time made San Francisco the largest city in the country where women could vote; and

WHEREAS, the intensive statewide campaign in small towns and rural areas calling for "Justice for California Women" proved to be an inspiration to supporters around the world and helped encourage woman suffrage in other states; and

WHEREAS, women voters immediately used their new power responsibly and to the credit of the state, and formed civic leagues and associations for the betterment of California which still have influence today; and

WHEREAS, this successful, historic effort by courageous and resolute citizens of all races and origins dedicated to the ideal of true democracy has nearly been forgotten and has for too long been denied its rightful place in the history of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Oakland featured in this history as the site of the only parade during the campaign of 1908 when 300 suffragists marched to the Republican Convention seeking their support; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council hereby recognizes the 95th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage in California and encourages all Californians to join in this observance.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20_____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____
LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California