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**DRAFT**  
City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

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

INTRODUCED BY VICE MAYOR LARRY REID, COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR  
AND COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

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**RESOLUTION IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
HONORING THE FOLLOWING COURAGEOUS AFRICAN AMERICAN  
INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS, WHO THROUGH THEIR  
INNOVATIVE, GROUNDBREAKING WORK, HAVE PROMOTED  
POSITIVE CHANGE AND UPLIFT FOR THE CITY OF OAKLAND IN  
THE FIELDS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, ADVOCACY, ARTS AND  
CULTURE, BUSINESS AND FAITH**

**WHEREAS**, Dr Carter Godwin Woodson, an African-American historian, author, journalist and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, recognized that African-American contributions were overlooked, ignored, and suppressed by history textbooks and educators, dedicated his life to the discovery, research, preservation and promotion of African American contributions to the U S; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1925, Dr Woodson pioneered the celebration of "Negro History Week," to honor Black American achievement and contribution in the U S and the world through the designation of the week between the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, and in 1976, the official commemoration was extended to the entire month of February and renamed to Black History Month which is now celebrated throughout the United States, Canada, and the U K; and

**WHEREAS**, Oakland is one of the most ethnically diverse major cities in the United States, and has been known since the Great Migration in the 1940s - when thousands of Southern laborers moved to California - as an epicenter of African-American life, culture and community; and

**WHEREAS**, the individuals and institutions we honor today have made significant contributions to the City of Oakland, through their dedication to the celebration, expansion, and preservation of the unique contributions of African Americans and these historic contributions are woven into the fabric of American history in the City of Oakland, the United States and the world; and

**WHEREAS**, District 1 is honoring **Ms. Josephine Lee**: who is an Oakland native and District 1 resident who has had an immeasurable positive impact as a

neighborhood organizer and Oakland booster for over 50 years. As a pillar of the Golden Gate neighborhood in North Oakland, Ms. Lee helped to enrich the community via her work in the arts, culture and neighborhood safety. As a leader of the Friends of the Golden Gate Library, Ms. Lee founded the Library's annual free Jazz on Sundays series, which started in 1990. To this day, Ms. Lee is one of the primary organizers of this summer-long event that brings together people of all races, ages, and backgrounds for the appreciation of locally and nationally acclaimed Jazz musicians each year. Ms. Lee also helped found the San Pablo Golden Gate Improvement Association (now known as the Golden Gate Community Association), which has served as an organizing tool around neighborhood improvement in the Greater Golden Gate neighborhood area for decades. Thanks to her work, in concert with Larry Benson and Charles Porter, Ms. Lee helped build community support for and raise the tens of millions of dollars necessary for the new Charles Porter Golden Gate Recreation Center. As part of her long-standing commitment to safety, Ms. Lee in decades past put a spotlight on the need for improved lighting along the San Pablo Corridor in North Oakland. Ever the leader, Ms. Lee also helped organize and chaired her beat's Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (10X) and now leads a National Night Out block gathering every year; and,

**WHEREAS**, District 2 is honoring: **Tonya Love**: a dedicated advocate for local democracy and citizen participation. Ms. Love has championed voter education and government transparency, using the hashtag #oakmtg on Twitter to report on city meetings. She currently serves as Co-Vice Chair of the Oakland Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board, contributing her experience as a public health professional addressing health disparities as a social justice issue. She has also served in Assemblymember Rob Bonta's office, representing Oakland, Alameda, and San Leandro. She advocates for criminal justice reform, affordable housing and the needs of low income renters of color in Oakland and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, District 3 is honoring **Dr. Washington Burns**: Dr Burns first settled at 27th and Adeline streets after moving from northern Mississippi when he was a teenager. He earned a degree in public health from UC Berkeley and a medical degree from the University of Buffalo and went on to a successful medical career in Pathology at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. In retirement, Dr. Burns has been a leader in West Oakland including serving as the program director for the West Oakland Asthma Coalition, a board member of the West Oakland Community Collaborative, the administrative director of the Northern California Breathmobile. Most notably, he is a founding board member and longtime volunteer executive director of Prescott-Joseph Center for Community Enhancement which offers Tutoring services, after-school programs in arts and music and computer literacy classes and which has transformed the lives of countless families in West Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, District 4 is honoring **Shelia Cypress Turner**: a 20-year resident of the Melrose/Fairfax neighborhood, is a long-time member of the Melrose High Hopes Neighborhood Council executive team. She has been instrumental in membership development and designing promotional materials for monthly meetings, special call

meetings, and special events. Sheila provides ongoing support for her husband, Preston Turner, who is Chairperson for the Melrose High Hopes Community Group in District 4. In addition, she is an account executive for a major fragrance company and a board member for the Women's Drop-In Center in Berkeley, California. She is the proud mother of Christopher Eugene Turner, who is a graduate of the New School University of Jazz and Contemporary Music. Christopher is a major recording artist who has performed with Usher, Sam Smith, Esperanza Spalding, and Stevie Wonder. Sheila is also the grandmother of three adorable grandchildren. In her spare time Sheila enjoys volunteering at the women's drop-in center where she offers counseling and support to abused and homeless women. She is the wife of Preston J. Turner, owner of PJT Enterprises Music and Entertainment, where he is the band leader for the renowned Pure Ecstasy; and

**WHEREAS**, District 5 is honoring **John Jones III**: John is the Director of Community and Political Engagement at Just Cities and is an inspirational, formerly incarcerated advocate and son of Oakland seeking to transform his community. John has worked on several local and state campaigns and ballot measures, including Measure FF, Measure Z, Prop 47, and Prop 57. John is a passionate leader, loving father, and trusted colleague; and

**WHEREAS**, District 6 is honoring **William "Bill" B. Patterson**: Bill Patterson has devoted much of his life to the betterment of life in Oakland and in the East Bay, serving as President and Vice President of the East Bay Municipal Utility District's Board of Directors and a board member since September of 1997. Bill served as a proud City of Oakland employee for 38 years until his retirement in 1988, as a Manager in the Department of Parks and Rec. Bill is widely recognized as one of Oakland's civic champions and has given unselfishly of his time and energies in many ways, including on the Board of Directors of Children's Fairyland, and the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, as the past president of the Oakland NAACP, and a close confidant and advisor to the late Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson, the city's first African American Mayor. Bill has also played the role of mentor to many of Oakland's superstar athletes who have gone on to gain Hall of Fame recognition, including the likes of basketball's Bill Russell and baseball's Joe Morgan. Bill's tremendous talents and service have been celebrated by numerous organizations, including: Young Man of the Year – Oakland Junior Chamber of Commerce; Oakland Citizen of the Year Award, Laney College President's Lifetime Achievement Award, African American Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame and Shiloh Christian Fellowship Lifelong Legend's Award; and

**WHEREAS**, District 7 is honoring **Cynthia Adams**: Cynthia Adams is a passionate advocate for social justice in education. Cynthia has spent over 33 years serving youth in the Oakland Unified School District. Highlights from Cynthia's career include spearheading the Castlemont High School community's fight to save the R.O.P. Program which enhanced students' talents in the following areas: auto shop, fashion instruction, environmental safety, computer technology, the culinary arts, and aviation. Cynthia also led the actions to save Castlemont High School's library. Her proudest achievement is helping numerous students attend college on scholarship. Cynthia is a native of Arkansas graduating from the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff. Cynthia is the mother of two daughters and two grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, the At-Large District is honoring: The Oscar Grant Foundation, **Wanda Johnson**, CEO and the Love Not Blood Campaign, **Cephus "Bobby X" Johnson**, CEO. Oscar Grant III was fatally shot in the early morning of New Year's Day 2009 and his death sparked an international movement. Through the family's personal journey through grief, The Oscar Grant foundation, was founded in August of 2010 to bridge the gap of distrust between at-risk individuals and law enforcement. From that organization was born the Love Not Blood Campaign, a social justice organization that brings families united by police or communal violence together to experience healing and to build a powerful political movement focused on police accountability and transparency. It is with gratitude and appreciation to honor these organizations that have brought international attention to the issues of police violence and accountability and that are a source of great pride for the City of Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor is honoring **Wilbert McAlister**, President, Oakland Black Cowboy Association: Wilbert McAlister was born in Madera, California in May of 1941 and has lived in the great City of Oakland for 53 years. Wilbert made Oakland his home after being honorably discharged from the United States Army, he was employed at Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard as a machinist in 1966 and retired from the Naval shipyard in 1993. He and his wife Dorothy raised two wonderful children here in the great city of Oakland with the values of support and protect your family as well as your community. As President of the Oakland Black Cowboy Association for 16 years, he along with his non-profit organization members have put on the Oakland Black Cowboy Association Parade and Festival as well as educational workshops for our community and thousands of Oaklanders to enlighten children and adults with the contributions of people of color in the settling of the West. People from all walks of life build their confidence and trust with animals, themselves, and each other through educational workshops with horses and livestock and participate in this one-of-a-kind parade and festival which features nationwide cowboys, trick riders, schools, community organizations, and local businesses: and

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland hereby honors and commends the following individuals in recognition of Black History and Heritage Month 2018:

- Ms. Josephine Lee
- Tonya Love
- Dr. Washington Burns
- Shelia Cypress Turner
- John Jones III
- William "Bill" B. Patterson
- Cynthia Adams
- Wanda Johnson
- Cephus "Bobby X" Johnson
- Wilbert McAlister

And be it;

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That these Black individuals and organizations are recognized for their courageous spirits, their innovation to address community challenges, and their steadfast commitment to social change, which have yielded great results that have strengthened, enhanced, and improved the City of Oakland and the lives of all its residents.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL-WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN, REID AND  
PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

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

LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California