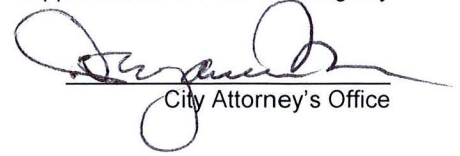


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OAKLAND

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Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

RESOLUTION IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONORING THE FOLLOWING COURAGEOUS AFRICAN AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS, 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: BISHOP FRANK PINKARD JR., DR. WILLIAM "BILL" RILEY, PAUL COBB, EMORY DOUGLAS, PASTOR GEORGE CUMMINGS, EGYPT KING, PRESTON J. TURNER, ASSATA OLUGBALA, JEAN BLACKSHER, GLORIA JEFFERY, RYAN COOGLER, AND THEO AYTCHAN WILLIAMS

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: **Bishop Frank Pinkard, Jr.** who has served as an esteemed spiritual leader and humanitarian in Oakland, working for the advancement of the City of Oakland's diverse communities for over 50 years, and whose dedication and commitment to Oakland is demonstrated through his tireless work at the Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church in North Oakland, where he has ministered since 1985, as well as his numerous acts of hands-on leadership and public service, including overseeing the completion of the Maya Angelou Library & Literacy Center that inspires Oakland youth to discover the world through reading, and previously serving as a member of the Alameda County Commission on the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency; and

WHEREAS, District 2 is honoring: **Dr. William "Bill" Riley**, an Oakland native, who was first elected in 1998 to the Peralta Community College District's Board of Trustees, and who is a Merritt College alumnus where he has served in public education as a teacher and in numerous leadership roles for four decades after earning an Ed.D. in educational policy from the University of San Francisco and an M.A. in educational administration from San Francisco State University, and recently under his leadership, the four Peralta colleges have partnered with hundreds of community organizations, fostering growth within the cities and neighborhoods they serve and providing and funding quality education for Peralta's diverse campuses, which offer classes for more than 30,000 students every year; and

WHEREAS, District 3 is honoring: **Paul Cobb** a longtime civil rights activist who was born and raised in West Oakland, marched with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and has dedicated much of his life to fighting for social justice and equity in our community through his strong advocacy, his commitment to high quality journalism through the Oakland Post which he has published since acquiring the paper in 2004, and his continued commitment to activism and progressive values; and

WHEREAS, District 3 is honoring: **Emory Douglas** who was an integral leader of the Black Panther Party as the Revolutionary Artist and Minister of Culture from 1967 until 1980 during which time he personally oversaw the art direction and production of the Party's official newspaper which at its peak reached over a hundred and thirty thousand readers across the country which, through Emory's artistic style and design skills, profoundly shaped the spirit of activism, social justice and self-determination of the Black Panther Party and who continues to work towards informing and educating the community through his art; and

WHEREAS, District 4 is honoring: **Pastor George Cummings** who is the founding pastor of the Imani Community Church and has been an ordained minister for over 35 years, and whose ministry has been characterized by his commitment to scholarly work in the area of theology and the African-American religious and cultural tradition and who has shown great strength, guidance and leadership in serving the people of Oakland through his work on numerous boards, commissions and projects especially as a critical faith leader in Ceasefire, Oakland's crime reduction strategy, and all of these endeavors have made him a shining example of what makes Oakland great; and

WHEREAS, District 5 is honoring: **Egypt King** who as a community leader, volunteer, activist, has launched educational, agricultural, and community programs benefiting primarily Oakland youth since 1999 including, among many others, “Supporting Positive Opportunities for Teens” (SPOT) - an educational/vocational program for high school students and the “Fruitvale & Coolidge District Community Closet” which helps the less fortunate people in need of attire for formal occasions and who has worked with youth in our community to create awareness about human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, District 5 is honoring: **Preston J. Turner**, CEO of PJT Enterprises and an Oakland resident who, for the past 20 years, has shown great commitment to community service, safety, and overall community development, who has chaired the Melrose/High Hopes Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Beat 27X where he has shown great leadership on crime prevention and on-going neighborhood beautification projects and who has shown himself to be an exemplary community leader and neighborhood friend passionate about strengthening, enhancing and improving Oakland communities; and

WHEREAS, District 6 is honoring: **Assata Olugbala**, who has served as an engaged and dedicated constituent, leader and unrelenting education and civil rights advocate for the Oakland community, and whose model example of citizen participation in government and community continues to emphasize the issues and needs of Oakland’s underrepresented groups through her undeniably fervent commitment to social equity; and

WHEREAS, District 7 is honoring: **Jean Blacksher**, an Oakland resident of more than fifty years, who has been a community leader in neighborhood safety by co-founding the Central East Project Area Committee (PAC), serving on the OCO and Planning Commission, and working at Alta Bates Hospital for thirty five years and who has remained fiercely passionate about improving her neighborhood and city she and who is a member of Word Assembly Church, a proud parent of two children, three grandchildren, and one great grandson; and

WHEREAS, District 7 is honoring: **Gloria Jeffery** who as a community activist and leader working on crime prevention and community development through her leadership in a number of organizations including co-founding the Central East Project Area Committee (PAC) and served diligently on the board, and working at Bayer HealthCare in Berkeley, CA for 36 years until her retirement in 2010, and she has been a faithful member Of Word Assembly for many years as well being the proud mother of one child, Kimberly Rhodes-Slaton of Phoenix AZ; and

WHEREAS, the At-Large District is honoring: acclaimed film director **Ryan Coogler** who was born and raised in Oakland and has made telling the story of Oakland part of his Hollywood legacy including the 2013 film *Fruitvale Station*, which he directed, about the last 24 hours in the life of Oakland resident Oscar Grant which won both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival and who also has a long history of community service having worked with incarcerated youth as well as serving as an exemplary role model to show the potential and possibility of Oakland’s youth; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor's Office is honoring: **Theo Aytchan Williams** who contributes abundantly to the vibrancy our city for more than simply being known for dancing and drumming with Samba funk but for also personifying the inclusive culture and community of our great city by providing a spiritually uplifting, culturally rich experience for new and longtime residents, alike; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby honors and commends the following individuals in recognition of Black History and Heritage Month 2016:

- Bishop Frank Pinkard Jr.
- Dr. William "Bill" Riley
- Paul Cobb
- Emory Douglas
- Pastor George C.L. Cummings
- Egypt King
- Preston J. Turner
- Assata Olugbala
- Gloria Jeffery
- Jean Blacksher
- Ryan Coogler
- Theo Aytchan Williams

And be it;

FURTHER RESOLVED: That these African American individuals 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