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Approved as to Form and Legality

Oakland City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Council Members Nancy Nadel, Larry Reid, Desley Brooks and Jean Quan

RESOLUTION HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MOTHER MARY ANN "MOTHER" WRIGHT UPON HER PASSING ON MAY 7, 2009

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Wright, fondly known throughout the community as "Mother" Wright – dedicated her life to feeding the hungry and nurturing the poor in the City of Oakland and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Mother Wright was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1921, and in 1950 moved to California with her nine children ; and

WHEREAS, she settled in Oakland and picked cotton, walnuts and strawberries in the East Bay and also worked nights in a San Leandro Cannery to support her family; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Mother Wright began feeding the hungry after a vision came to her in a dream, using her Social Security check to buy food for a weekly dinner in Jefferson Square Park and cooking meals in her own kitchen; and

WHEREAS, she accepted no pay for her humanitarian work and continued to use her own resources to buy food for the needy; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, under the administration of Mayor Lionel J. Wilson, she was a founding member of the Emergency Food Providers Advisory Committee (EFPAC) and worked with Mayor Wilson and other food providers to distribute food to needy families and homeless persons throughout Oakland; and

WHEREAS, under the auspices of the Mother Wright Foundation, she established a food distribution warehouse at 3021 San Pablo Avenue where she distributed food and clothing to low income Oakland families; and.

WHEREAS, in 2004 Mother Wright received an honorary doctorate of ministry from the Bell Grove Theological Seminary and the National Baptist Women Ministers Convention for her charitable work for the poor and homeless.; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 she was inducted by the Caring Institute into the national Hall of Fame for Caring Americans in Washington D. C.; and

WHEREAS, Mother Wright passed away on May 7, 2009; and

WHEREAS, many people in Oakland, including her friends, colleagues and family, and the many poor and homeless persons she helped will remember Mother Wright for the personal impact she made on their lives and the social impact she made on community movements of people of all colors; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Oakland City Council does hereby recognize Mary Ann "Mother" Wright as a dedicated humanitarian and honor her thirty years of community service to the needy in Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2009

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID AND
PRESIDENT BRUNNER

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

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

DRAFT