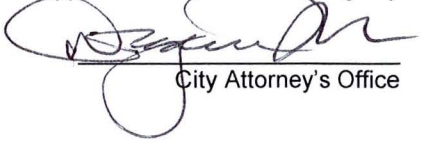


15 SEP -3 PM 1:59

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

---

### HONORING CITY OF OAKLAND YOUTH POET LAUREATES SOPHIE ELKIN (2014) AND TOVA RICARDO (2015)

**WHEREAS**, the Youth Poet Laureate contest was created by the Oakland Public Library, Youth Speaks, and many other community organizations in 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, applicants must submit 3 -5 original poems showing excellence, originality, creative risk-taking, and authenticity of which a select group of youth poets are invited to compete in the final round before a live audience;

**WHEREAS**, the Youth Poet Laureate contest annually recognizes 1 youth for distinction in poetry with the esteemed title and a \$5,000 college scholarship; and

**WHEREAS**, the popularity and interest for the Youth Poet Laureate contest continues to grow, with a record number 53 applicants vying for the City's top literary honor in 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, poet, storyteller, activist, and spoken word artist **Sophie Elkin** has performed at numerous venues and festivals, is a graduate of Oakland School for the Arts who currently attends Laney College, and was lauded by United States Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera as a "word master and performance magician"; and

**WHEREAS**, **Tova Ricardo**, 16, is a junior at Bentley High School who began writing poetry in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and whose poetry focuses on issues of race, gender, sexuality, family dynamics, community, and social stigma; and

**WHEREAS**, Sophie Elkin and Tova Ricardo serve as ambassadors of literacy for the City of Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, The Youth Poet Laureate program is one of many ways that the Oakland Public Library informs, inspires, and delights our diverse community as a resource for information, knowledge, and artistic and literary expression, providing the best in traditional services, new technologies, and innovative programs; and be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland expresses sincere gratitude, appreciation, and pride to: Sophie Elkin, Youth Poet Laureate of 2014; and Tova Ricardo, Youth Poet Laureate of 2015.

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