

OAKLAND CITY COUNCILOFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND
City Attorney**RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.**

07 DEC 13 PM 3:08

Introduced by Councilmember Jane Brunner

RESOLUTION HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., HOLIDAY AND RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND CIVIC EFFORTS OF THE 1981 APOLLO CLASS OF OAKLAND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL AND THEIR FACULTY ADVISOR, TAY MC ARTHUR IN PURSUING STATE LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THIS HISTORIC HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, during this Twenty Fifth Year Anniversary of California's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, it is time to reflectively reaffirm "The Dream" and commend those who labored so ardently for the passage of this statute; and

WHEREAS, this Council and the Mayor of Oakland have for the past three decades demonstrated a profound commitment to recognizing and endorsing the City pride filling civic projects of the Apollo Classes I, II, and III (1981, 1985 and 1989) of Oakland Tech; and

WHEREAS, the Apollo II and III Classes were most noteworthy in their preservation projects centering around establishing Tech as a Historic Landmark, erecting Tech's granite "Landmark Plaza" monument dedicated by California's Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Masons, promoting and financially supporting both the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge and Lake Merritt "Light the Bay" and "Necklace of Light" projects, and establishing the National Student Historical Preservation Association; and

WHEREAS, the original Apollos (later designated "Apollos I") spent their four years (1977-1981) as "Technites" on a campus of portable classrooms at the former Grove St. (now ML King Way) Merritt College campus, while their Broadway site was being re-engineered for earthquake safety; and

WHEREAS, these 1977 freshmen literally created a name for themselves—"The Apollos" along with their motto: "We who reach for the stars," while making a name for themselves as a civic minded, project focused student political force for Oakland and ultimately for California and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, their, "obligation to serve" first showed up on campus by direction from their four year Apollo Class Steering Committee, at Christmastime with trees for both the student and staff cafeterias along with hot cider and donuts delivered to the entire staff which they continued for more than twenty years through 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Committee then successfully launched two voter registration drives in 1978 and 1980, and a U.S. Department of Commerce Census information drive in 1980; and

WHEREAS, with the permission of NASA, they modified the Apollo 13 moon flight logo into their own and produced it in a bronze medallion---in sterling, given to academically outstanding Apollos, through 1986 to other Tech graduates being most significantly presented as the "Apollo Bronze Star Reachers Award" (1981-2005) to a fourth grade student at Piedmont Avenue Elementary School (a "feeder school" to Tech) in April during their annual Masonic Public School Month open house; and

WHEREAS, the medallion was presented to nineteen standout supporters of the Apollo projects from 1980 through 2004 making each of them "Honorary Apollos," with the first going to Dr. George Brecher, Professor Emeritus UCSF, ranging though Lionel Wilson, Mayor; Ed Foglia, President of the California Teachers Association; Peggy Stinnett, School Board; Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr.; his daughter, Christine King Farris, Dir. of the King Center; his grandson, Pastor Derek King, Rome GA; John George, Supervisor; Bel Guber, Tech's Nurse; Jerry Brown, Governor; Willard McGuire and Mary Hatwood Futrell, Presidents of NEA; Greg Edmonds, KGO-Radio Newscaster; Jan Mendelsohn, President of the Oakland Education Association; Elihu Harris and Nick Petris, State Legislators; Mary Moore and John Sutter, City Council; Marge Grodin, Tech Attendance Office; and, Virgil Meibert, Tribune Sacramento Reporter; and

WHEREAS, besides the Apollos' final year, "Rededicated for Excellence" cornerstone (dedicated and laid by the Masonic Grand Lodge of California and Hawaii) which was the class graduation gift for their Broadway Tech campus---the site that they had never attended---they launched a nationwide drive through the National Education Association, and endorsed by Oakland's "For ERA Project," to garner student petition signatures throughout the nation in support of the Equal Rights Constitutional Amendment (ERA) to be used in promoting the amendment in the legislatures of three of the as yet, un-ratified states; and

WHEREAS, the "Keystone" and pinnacle project of the Apollos was their two year lobbying drive overlapping their other ongoing programs to create a State Holiday--FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS---honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as an outstanding American for his life, dedication and service--TO ALL AMERICANS, and

WHEREAS, the Apollos were required by the state "Fair Election Practices Act" to register as a Political Action Committee, as they had fund raisers for the promotional expenses of the King Drive, meaning they were "receiving contributions to influence legislation" proving them with an additional experience in the realm of the political arena; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Oakland and those throughout the Bay Area were inspired watching the Apollos in their two year journey from a quest, launched in portable classroom #47 on their temporary Grove Street campus in November of 1979 to its culminating celebration in these Council Chambers in January 1982, frequently reported in the Tribune, Post, Montclarian, Chronicle and Examiner; and

WHEREAS, their political acumen was best demonstrated in their coalition/team building approach that brought together the endorsing support of: The Oakland Education Association (OEA), The Oakland Board of Education, The Office of the Mayor of Oakland, this City Council, The California Teachers Association (CTA) (that asked if, "They could co-sponsor the Apollo's legislation"), The Alameda County Board of Supervisors, and The National Education Association (NEA) - that in turn, launched similar State King Holiday programs across the country to promote the support for a King National Holiday; and

WHEREAS, the Apollo PAC's members' testimonies (three times) before Assembly and Senate Committees, which were coordinated with the lobbying efforts of the CTA Governmental Relations Office in Sacramento along with knocking on many legislator's doors, all came together with Governor Jerry Brown's September 3, 1981 signing into law Assembly Bill 312 which was first observed on January 15, 1982, with the Legislation by Oakland's Assembly Member Elihu Harris and Oakland's State Senator Nicholas Petris being recognized as having truly been a student accomplishment within a State Senate Resolution where it was affectionately referred to as: "The Apollo Bill"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Oakland City Council hereby celebrates the Twenty-Fifth Year Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and recognizes and commends the contributions and civic efforts of the 1981 Apollo Class of Oakland Technical High School and their Faculty Advisor, Tay McArthur, in initiating and pursuing State Legislation to establish this historic holiday, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: that a copy of this resolution suitably inscribed be presented to the Apollo Class of 1981, for perpetual display in the Apollo Showcase at Oakland Technical High School, in recognition of the permanence of their achievements and contributions to our community.

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