

DRAFT

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL FIFE

ADOPT A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING PAUL MOONEY FOR HIS UNCOMPROMISING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL COMMENTARY AND ICONIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO BLACK ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT; AND DECLARING MAY 19TH AS PAUL MOONEY DAY IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND.

WHEREAS, Paul Gladney, better known to the world by his stage name Paul Mooney, was born on August 4, 1941 in Shreveport, Louisiana and moved to Oakland, California as a young child; and

WHEREAS, Paul Mooney is an Oakland treasure—a trailblazing comedian, writer, producer, film and television actor with a career spanning four decades; and

WHEREAS, Mooney, referred to as the *Godfather of Comedy*, wrote for some of the most prolific comics in American history including, but not limited to, Richard Pryor, Redd Foxx and Kevin Hart, as well as groundbreaking television shows such as Good Times, The Chappelle Show, In Living Color, Sanford and Son, and more; and

WHEREAS, The body of work created by Mr. Mooney forced observers to react to his radically-honest, unique commentary on racial, social, and political conditions; and

WHEREAS, Paul Mooney was, and remains, the definition of living in full, unapologetic Blackness - an original in his genre, he broke ground as one of the first Black television and film writers during the early 1970s and created a path for others to follow; and

WHEREAS, Paul Mooney is a shining example of the talent in Oakland; he lived his life out-loud, giving others the courage to do the same and we mourn the May 19th loss of a Town hero, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The Oakland City Council hereby, recognizes Paul Mooney for his work and contributions to the City of Oakland, Hollywood, and the entire world through his biting wit and critique of America's power imbalances; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council ensure the perpetuation of his legacy by declaring May 19th as Paul Mooney Day in the City of Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST

ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California