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Approved as to Form and Legality

DRAFT

City Attorney

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY VICE MAYOR ANNIE CAMPBELL WASHINGTON,
PRESIDENT PRO TEM LARRY REID, AND
COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND HONORING MS. SUSAN RENÉ SHELTON FOR 31 YEARS OF DEVOTED AND DEDICATED SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND CONGRATULATING HER ON HER RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan René Shelton, in 1985, having recently graduated from the University of Michigan, moved to the warm climate of California, the furthest west she could get from the frigid winters of Michigan, and with a well equipped Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Studies and Public Administration from Winston Salem State University, and a Master in Urban Planning with a focus in Housing and Community Development, launched her career with the City of Oakland as an intern in the Community and Economic Development Agency's Housing Division; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan René Shelton was soon hired as a permanent employee in the Agency, and served in several classifications, initially as an Administrative Analyst, while negotiating, developing, monitoring, and evaluating agreements funded by the Community Development Block Grant Program, and was later promoted to the positions of Emergency Housing Coordinator, Housing Development Coordinator IV and Hunger and Homeless Programs Supervisor, in which capacities had the opportunity to hone her knowledge and experience in providing services and housing for those being negatively impacted by poverty and misfortune in the city of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan René Shelton, in 2003, her unit was transferred to the Department of Human Services, where she continued to serve as a Supervisor until 2005, where, thereafter, she was appointed to her current position of Community Housing Services Manager and, where she took on leadership to grow and expand the program services, developing alignment with Housing First policy, developing innovative projects with blended funding, and had oversight of a \$10 million budget with a staff of seven; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan René Shelton has brought to the table strong skills in public administration, project and contract management, financial management, human resources management, community planning, strategic planning and facilitation, events planning and fundraising, and over the years has invested time to pursue continuing education and training and to earn certifications in human resources, communications, computer technology, and community economic development, and, has demonstrated her remarkable managerial skills in shaping quality staff and program resources to address the challenges of meeting the need for housing and food security; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan René Shelton, has shown monumental professional accomplishments for the homeless and near homeless in the City of Oakland including: designing and coordinating the temporary housing strategy for 3,000 displaced persons following the Loma Prieta earthquake and Oakland firestorm; establishing and managing a \$3 million scattered site transitional housing program; initiating the Permanent Access To Housing (PATH) Strategy; developing the Annual Winter shelter, various Rapid Rehousing and Supportive Housing Programs, the Homeless Mobile Outreach Program, North County Family Front Door, redesign of the Henry Robinson Multi-services Center and the Oakland PATH Re-housing Initiative (OPRI) that provides subsidies to assist homeless encampment dwellers, foster youth and young men returning from prison in transitioning into permanent supportive housing, while additionally administering the provision of housing and services for people with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS); and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan René Shelton, while addressing the accompanying needs of the homeless, has managed the renowned City of Oakland Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner, which started 25 years ago by the late community activist, Mr. Henry Mozell, which-serves 2,000 homeless, seniors and low-income residents, the Food Distribution Program that provides groceries for approximately 3,500 residents nine times a year, and the Annual Turkey Giveaways in the Elmhurst Community Development District while supporting and supervising the Oakland Emergency Food Providers Advisory Committee (EFPAC) and administering the City's first Project Homeless Connect, a one-stop homeless referral fair of housing, services, food and clothing held 2-3 times a year; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan René Shelton's strong commitment to address hunger and homelessness extends beyond the borders of Oakland to her engagement with county-wide jurisdictions, and with regional planning agencies and funding groups, and has served actively on the Alameda County Everyone Home leadership committees, the Oakland-Alameda County Pipeline Committee, and many regional and national work groups on developing housing policy nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan René Shelton has devoted her career to making sure our system of care could meet as many needs as possible for those who are poor and homeless: to getting people housed and keeping them housed, to providing shelter, counseling and rental assistance, to offer access to food, and has worked collaboratively and tirelessly to provide decent, safe and affordable housing with life-enhancing services for all the citizens of Oakland, while maintaining her vision, focus and deep passion, which has been not just to ameliorate homelessness and hunger but to end these conditions in Oakland and Alameda County; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan René Shelton's sense of vocation has been shaped by the values of her small, southern family and community of Rock Run in Henry County, Virginia, and through family and community, where its residents were taught to be a contribution to your family and community, to be loyal and dedicated to a cause, and to give leadership in whatever walk in life they chose, served as a prime principle to take care of the community, and for the community to take care of each other, in which The City of Oakland has afforded the opportunity to put this into practice and to make an indelible mark in the City that has become a beloved home; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan René Shelton, since 1993, has been trained as a skilled facilitator through her work and affiliation with the International Black Summit, an organization with a conversation of empowerment for people of African descent that she has traveled with to locations across the planet impacting the lives of thousands, where she has honed those skills and applied them to the work she does in the broader Oakland and Alameda County community to assist in the facilitation, coordination and collaboration needed to address and positively impact the issues related to homelessness, while the conversation of the International Black Summit has shaped her life, supported her growth and been an essential part of her development as visionary and advocate for the homeless; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan René Shelton feels great pride in having completed this 31-year long phase of her life work and is ready for the next chapter in her journey, assured that she will continue to grow and evolve, engage in transformation, contribute to equity and equality, and use the skills she has acquired to crack the ceiling of opportunity and looks forward to pursuing her wide range of interests, including interior and fashion design, cooking, reading, music and the arts, while as an international citizen who has traveled to Europe, Canada, Africa, South America and the Caribbean has maintained a worldwide circle of friends whose company gives her great pleasure; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Susan René Shelton, as she retires on December 31, 2016 and leaves the City of Oakland to follow other passions, unequivocally leaves a void in the hearts and memories of those who worked beside her as well as in the community for whom she worked; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland honors, commends, and extends sincere gratitude to Ms. Susan René Shelton for 31 years of exceptional, devoted and innovative service to the City of Oakland; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland thanks Ms. Susan René Shelton and expresses appreciation for her dedication to her public service and her contributions to the City of Oakland, especially for her commitment to addressing the needs of homeless and hungry citizens, and her concerted efforts to provide shelter, permanent housing, services and food security for residents of Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLEN, 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