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OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney

RESOLUTION No. 84824 C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney

RESOLUTION IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONORING THE FOLLOWING COURAGEOUS AFRICAN AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS, WHO THROUGH THEIR INNOVATIVE, GROUNDBREAKING WORK, HAVE PROMOTED POSITIVE CHANGE AND UPLIFT FOR THE CITY OF OAKLAND IN THE FIELDS EDUCATORS TO HONOR AND TEACH ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND UNIQUE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACKS IN THE ARMED FORCES, ARTS, BUSINESS, CIVIL RIGHTS, EDUCATION, ENTERTAINMENT, FAMILY LIFE, HISTORY, HUMANITY, LAW, LITERATURE, MEDICINE, MUSIC, POLITICS, RELIGION, SCIENCE, AND SPORTS: NAPOLEON BRANDFORD - SIEBERT BRANFORD SHANK & CO (BUSINESS); PAUL COBB (JOURNALISM); DR. ALECIA A. DECOUDREAUX (EDUCATION); MARGARET GORDON (ADVOCACY); ELIHU HARRIS (POLITICS); TACUMA KING & TARIKA LEWIS (ARTS); DR. MICHAEL LENOIR (MEDICINE); DR. WADE NOBLES (HUMANITY); REV. ELOISE OLIVER (RELIGION); ADANTE POINTER, ESQ. (LAW); LEON "BIP" ROBERTS (SPORTS); E.W. WAINWRIGHT (MUSIC); AND GLYNN WASHINGTON (ENTERTAINMENT)

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, an African-American historian, author, journalist and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, recognized that African-American contributions were overlooked, ignored, and suppressed by history textbooks and educators, dedicated his life to the discovery, research, preservation and promotion of African American contributions to the U.S; and,

WHEREAS, in 1925, Dr. Woodson pioneered the celebration of "Negro History Week," to honor Black American achievement and contribution in the U.S. and the world. Designated the week between the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, in 1976, the official commemoration was extended to the entire month of February and renamed to Black History Month which is now celebrated throughout the United States, Canada, and the U.K; and,

WHEREAS, Oakland is one of the most ethnically diverse major cities in the United States, and has since the Great Migration in the 1940s - when thousands of Southern laborers moved to California - been known as an epicenter of African-American life, culture and community; and,

WHEREAS, the individuals and institutions we honor today have made significant contributions to the City of Oakland, through their dedication to the celebration, expansion, and preservation of the unique contributions of African Americans and these historic contributions are woven into the fabric of American history in the City of Oakland, the United States and the world; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends Napoleon Brandford's outstanding contributions in business. In 1997, Brandford joined with two powerhouse Wall Street women, Suzanne Shank and Muriel Siebert to form Siebert Brandford Shank, Inc. Headquartered in Oakland, today, it is one of the top 12 firms on Wall Street and is the largest female and minority-owned investment banking firms in the world, with Brandford serving as chairman. In 2011 Black Enterprise named Brandford among the most powerful men on Wall Street; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends Paul Laurence Dunbar Cobb, the owner and publisher of the Oakland post newspaper group which was founded in 1963 by Thomas and Velda Berkley. Paul's love for Oakland led him to purchase the Post to preserve and expand the impact of Black journalism and today the Oakland Post is the largest African American weekly publication in Northern California. In the aftermath of the Chauncey Bailey assassination, Mr. Cobb initiated the Chauncey Bailey Project which garnered national coverage and acclaim for investigative journalism ; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends Dr. Alecia A. DeCoudreaux, the 13th president of Mills College and the first African American to serve in this role at the oldest women's college in the West. A Chicago native, DeCoudreaux received a Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Political Science from Wellesley College, a Doctor of Law degree from the Indiana University School of Law. In 2012 she received the Leadership California's Trailblazer Award, which honors women leaders who have made remarkable contributions to our state. Deeply committed to community service, DeCoudreaux brings to the office of Mills College President an extensive and distinguished professional background. She is a former senior executive at Eli Lilly and Company, one of Fortune magazine's Global Top Companies for Leaders, and she has served in a variety of executive leadership roles over a span of three decades; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends Margaret Gordon, co-director of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project and co-coordinator of the Bay Area Ditching Dirty Diesel Collaborative. A nationally recognized environmental justice advocate, she was honored by President Obama with the Champion of Change award for her work on environmental and health issues in West Oakland. Gordon, who has asthma, volunteered to have her home tested as part of the institute's indoor air-monitoring study in West Oakland. Measurements found that levels of toxic diesel soot were five times higher in her home than in other Oakland neighborhoods. As a result, Gordon has initiated a Healthy Homes Project to begin to clean up the indoor air in West Oakland homes and became the first resident leader to be appointed to the Oakland Port Commission; and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends the Honorable Elihu Harris, The 2nd African American Mayor of the City of Oakland and State Assembly Member, for being his leadership in guiding policy in the areas of civil rights, criminal justice, poverty, tax reform and transportation. His legislation led to the creation of the Martin Luther King Jr. California State holiday and his legacy of service is set in stone as noted in the State of California Building in Oakland that bears his name; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends Tacuma King and Tariqa Lewis for their dedication to extending the beauty of music and visual art and crafts to the children of Oakland for over 20 years through lessons in the Oakland School District, at the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts and as founders of the Bay Area Youth Arts Program; and be it,;

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends Dr. Michael Lenoir, lauded by his peers as one of the best allergists in the Bay Area, for his work treating children impacted by asthma and for championing the reduction of the environmental causes of the disease, that disproportionately affects communities of color. Last year Dr. Lenoir was elected President of the National Association for African American Physicians; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends Dr. Wade Noble, founder and Executive Director of the Institute for the Advanced Study of Black Family, Life and Culture, Inc., tenured professor in the Department of Black Studies, the School of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University and founder and Director of the Center for Applied Cultural Studies and Educational Achievement (CACSEA) for decades of work in the areas of African Psychology, Black family dynamics, youth development, African centered education and behavioral change. Dr. Nobles received the Congressional Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community, The State and the Nation, the 99th Session of United States Congress; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends Rev. Eloise Oliver of the East Bay Church of Religious Science for promoting the empowerment of all people through a ministry that teaches how unconditional love can create positive life change, and that love and forgiveness are the answers to all human discord, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends Adante Pointer, Esq. for his work as a civil rights attorney representing individuals and families who have suffered catastrophic injuries and injustices. Mr. Pointer played a critical role as representative for Oscar Grant's family in the trial and ultimate conviction of his killer. In 2006, the Congressional Black Caucus recognized him as a CBC Emerging Leader at their Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends Leon "Bip" Roberts, an Oakland native star baseball player who finished his illustrious career as a premier base stealer with the Oakland A's, for his commitment to the youth of Oakland through his ongoing work with the Students Rising Above Foundations, and with his alma mater Skyline High; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends E.W. Wainwright for his dedication to enriching the fabric of life for those most in need through music for over 40 years. Mr. Wainwright founded the African Roots of Jazz Performing Arts Academy, beginning a long and productive career in arts education. He is a performing arts consultant, administrator and producer who opened the Atlanta Jazz Festival in 1965 and played Carnegie Hall just last year; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby recognizes and commends Glynn Washington, host and executive producer of NPR radio show Snap Judgment, for excellence and innovation in broadcasting and media. Glynn was Director of the Young Entrepreneurs Program at UC Berkeley Haas School of Business for three years and won The Public Radio Talent Quest sponsored by Public Radio Exchange; and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council officially recognizes the month of February as Black History month in the City of Oakland and encourages all residents and educators to honor and teach about the achievements and unique contributions of Blacks in the Armed Forces, Arts, Civil Rights, Education, Entertainment, Family Life, History, Humanity, Law, Literature, Medicine, Music, Politics, Religion, Science, and Sports and the institutions that reflect the rich heritage of these residents.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, FEB 18 2014

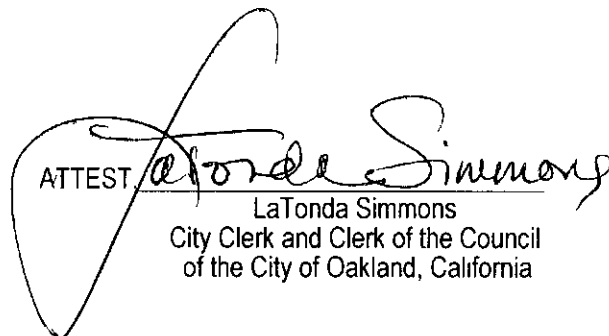
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES – BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON McELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF, and PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN -8

NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

ATTEST, 
LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California