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OAKLAND

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DRAFT

Approved as to Form and Legality

Oakland City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PATRICIA KERNIGHAN

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LAST CLOSET CAMPAIGN URGING THE COMMISSIONERS OF MEN'S SPORTS TO PUBLICLY SUPPORT GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER ATHLETES

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland has been the proud home to three professional sports teams that have electrified and united our city: the Oakland Athletics, the Oakland Raiders and the Golden State Warriors; and

WHEREAS, Oaklanders of all genders, races and classes celebrate our teams' accomplishments as shared victories, yet gay professional athletes feel the need to remain closeted; and

WHEREAS, unlike most other professions today, participants in professional sports believe they cannot be open about their sexual orientation; no active male player in any of the five major professional sports leagues in the United States has ever publicly acknowledged being gay; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. military, once one of the last bastions of discrimination against LGBT individuals, now recognizes the need to address prejudice openly, instead of assuming it does not exist; and

WHEREAS, bias-based harassment is far too often complicit in the disturbing number of LGBT youth taking their own lives; and

WHEREAS, our LGBT youth need LGBT sports heroes, in addition to other influential role models; and

WHEREAS, with this in mind, the Last Closet Project campaign leadership, under the auspices of the nonprofit organization Woman Vision, is seeking interviews with all the major league sports Commissioners for the purpose of filming a statement of affirmation for LGBT athletes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that we members of the Oakland City Council respectfully request that the Commissioners of Baseball, Football, Basketball, Hockey and Soccer use the authority of their respective offices to sanction discrimination against LGBT players; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: that we Councilmembers state our support for LGBT players and invite them to come out and, once they are out, pledge our efforts to make them safe and accepted; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: that a copy of this resolution be sent to Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, Football Commissioner Roger Goodell, Basketball Commissioner David Stern, Hockey Commissioner Gary Bettman and Soccer Commissioner Don Garber.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON-MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF, AND
PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES-

ATTEST: _____

ABSENT-

LATONDA SIMMONS, CITY CLERK
AND CLERK OF THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF OAKLAND

ABSTENTION-