

Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2022 AS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH AND UPLIFTING THE CRITICAL ROLE OF MENTORS AND ENCOURAGING POSITIVE MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND TO ELEVATE OAKLAND YOUTH TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

WHEREAS, January 2022 marked the 20th Anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an annual campaign to focus attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us can work together to increase the number of mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for our young people; and

WHEREAS, the goals of National Mentoring Month are to raise awareness of mentoring, recruit individuals to mentor, celebrate the powerful impact of caring adults who volunteer time for the benefit of young people, and encourage organizations to engage and integrate quality mentoring into the efforts of their organizations; and

WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month celebrates, elevates, and encourages mentoring across our state and the recruitment of caring adult mentors in Oakland; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland honors volunteer mentors who support young people by showing up for them every day and demonstrating their commitment to helping them thrive; and

WHEREAS, mentoring programs like the OK Program, East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC), Youth Uprising, We Lead Ours, Hidden Genius Project, Girls Inc. and many others make our communities and our state stronger by driving impactful relationships that increase social capital for young people and provide invaluable support networks; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, mentoring programs have stepped up to fill gaps for young people and families, connecting them with resources and ensuring that mentoring relationships continue virtually to ensure that physical distancing does not mean social disconnection; and

WHEREAS, mentoring plays a pivotal role in career exploration and supports workplace skills by helping young people set career goals, equipping mentors with the skills needed to support the professional growth of young people, and drives positive outcomes for young people and businesses; and

WHEREAS, quality mentoring promotes healthy relationships and communication, positive self-esteem, emotional well-being, and growth of a young person and their relationships with other adults; and

WHEREAS, research shows that young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor were, as compared with similarly situated young people without a mentor are:

- (1) 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college,
- (2) 81 percent more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities,
- (3) more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team,
- (4) 78 percent more likely to pay it forward by volunteering regularly in the communities of young people; and

WHEREAS, students who are chronically absent are more likely to fall behind academically, and mentoring can play a role in helping young people attend school regularly, as research shows that students who meet regularly with a mentor are, as compared with the peers of those students are:

- (1) 52 percent less likely to skip a full day of school,
- (2) 37 percent less likely to skip a class; and

WHEREAS, students who meet regularly with their mentors are 46 percent less likely than their peers to start using drugs and 27 percent less likely to start drinking; and

WHEREAS, almost half of today's young adults report having a mentor in their youth and those rates appear to have been rising steadily over the past several decades; and

WHEREAS, a mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a young person to help that young person discover personal strength and achieve the potential of that young person; and

WHEREAS, quality mentoring encourages positive life and social skills, promotes self-esteem, bolsters academic achievement and college access, supports career exploration, and nurtures youth leadership development; and

WHEREAS, mentoring happens in various settings, including community-based programs, elementary and secondary schools, colleges, government agencies, religious institutions, and the workplace, and in various ways, including formal mentoring matches and informal relationships with teachers, coaches, neighbors, faith leaders, and others; and

WHEREAS, mentoring programs have been shown to be effective in helping young people make positive choices; and

WHEREAS, youth development experts agree that mentoring encourages positive youth development and smart daily behaviors, such as finishing homework and having healthy social interactions, and has a positive impact on the growth and success of a young person; and

WHEREAS, mentors help young people set career goals and use the personal contacts of the mentors to help young people meet industry professionals and train for and find jobs; and

WHEREAS, despite those described benefits, an estimated 9,000,000 young people in the United States feel isolated from meaningful connections with adults outside the home, constituting a “mentoring gap” that demonstrates a need for collaboration and resources; and

WHEREAS, Black male mentors help to alleviate the opportunity gap and serve to link youth to economic and social opportunity while also strengthening our neighborhoods; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Council recognizes January 2022 as National Mentoring Month and uplifts the critical role of mentors and encourages positive mentorship programs in the City of Oakland to elevate Oakland youth to achieve their full potential.

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