

Draft

Approved as to Form and Legality

DRAFT

Oakland City Attorney's Office

05 OCT 20 PM 3:59

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER Laurence Reid

Resolution Commemorating National Adoption Awareness Month and Saluting the Twenty-Third Anniversary of the Black Adoption Placement and Research Center, One of Two Agencies in California that Specializes in Finding Permanent Homes for African American and Other Waiting Children

WHEREAS, November is National Adoption Awareness Month, a time during which this country focuses on the many children who are waiting for permanent homes and the vital importance of supporting public and private agencies that provide services to waiting children and help families to adopt them or offer them temporary homes; and

WHEREAS, the Black Adoption Research and Placement and Research Center ("BAPRC") has been providing permanent homes for waiting children for 23 years and currently is located in City Councilmember Reid's District at 8101 Edgewater Drive; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, November 20th from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., BAPRC will host its 10th annual "Calling Out the Names of Waiting Children" ceremony and program in Jack London Square to call out the names of the children in California who are waiting for permanent homes and provide information to the public about these precious children and the opportunity and process to adopt or provide foster care for waiting children; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, November 19th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the BAPRC Board and staff will host a fundraiser and reception at the Stoneridge Gallery located at 424 Second Street to celebrate twenty-three years of providing permanent homes for waiting children and the event will include entertainment by Jacqueline Hairston, renowned educator, pianist and composer; and

WHEREAS, BAPRC is a private, non-profit agency founded in 1983 and provides services to families residing in 14 Northern California counties; and

WHEREAS, BAPRC is a licensed adoption and foster family agency dedicated to recruiting permanent loving families from the community from which the disproportionate number of waiting children come - the African American community and BAPRC has placed hundreds of children in permanent loving homes during its twenty-three years of operation; and

WHEREAS, BAPRC places an emphasis on advocating on behalf of children with special needs who might otherwise spend their entire childhoods in foster care; and

WHEREAS, there is a crisis in America because hundreds of thousands of children are without permanent homes and California leads all states with over 100,000 children in out-of-home placements, the overwhelming majority of whom are of African descent; and

WHEREAS, we must redouble our efforts to address this crisis based on the following facts: (1) between 1983 and 2000, the number of children in foster care in California increased by over 300%; (2) in Alameda County, 66% of the waiting children are African American; (3) in San Francisco County, 66% of the waiting children are African American; older children are less likely to be adopted; (4) 62% of children in the California Youth Authority are children who have been in foster care; and (5) youth between 13 and 18 years of age comprise roughly 1/3 of the population in foster care, despite the fact they represent only about 12% of the U.S. Population; and

WHEREAS, the children are the future of this nation and our world and these beautiful children, despite facing many challenges such as multiple temporary placements, are strong, resilient treasures who can realize their full potential and make important contributions to the world especially if they have stable, nurturing families; and

WHEREAS, as the number of children entering the system grows at an alarming rate, many more qualified families are urgently needed; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Oakland commemorates National Adoption Awareness Month; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Oakland and the Oakland City Council salute and applaud the Black Adoption Placement and Research Center for the vital work it has performed for more than two decades in providing permanent homes for waiting children; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Oakland declares Saturday, November 19th Black Adoption Placement and Research Center day in recognition of the agency's Tenth Annual "Calling Out of the Names of Children Who Wait" Ceremony and Program and BAPRC's Twenty-Third Anniversary.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BRUNNER, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, BROOKS, REID,
CHANG, AND PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES -
ABSENT -
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California