

**DRAFT**

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR**

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**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DAMON JAMAL TAYLOR AND OTHER LOCAL ARTISTS ON THEIR AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARY "BLACK DADDY: THE MOVIE" AND SUPPORTING THE FILM'S PREMIERE ON FATHERS DAY WEEKEND JUNE 17 THROUGH JUNE 19, 2022**

**WHEREAS**, "Black Daddy: The Movie" is unfiltered storytelling from the Black father's point of view created because it is often overlooked and assumed that Black fathers are not involved in their children's lives; and

**WHEREAS**, "Black Daddy: The Movie" is a passion project for the creators covering a space and purpose that is near to their hearts - Black fatherhood. The creators followed the lives of a few like-minded men as they told compelling stories of the joy, pain and the complexity and triumph in what it means to be a Black father in America; and

**WHEREAS**, "Black Daddy: The Movie" has original music by Director, Damon Jamal Taylor (Dame Drummer) in collaboration with other Oakland-based musicians including Mike Blankenship, Kev Choice, Grand Nationxl, Karega Bailey, and Ryan Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the film director, Dame Drummer, "Being an artist comes with great responsibility. Being able to control the narrative is even more important. As a father I have come to know some amazing men who use love, great caution and wisdom at the core of their masculinity. It is a huge component of how they raise their children, the next wave of black brilliance. Oftentimes we celebrate our heroes without ever knowing the backstory of the men and women from which they come. "Black Daddy: The Movie" moves the culture forward;" and

**WHEREAS**, in just three months of the 2022 film festival season "Black Daddy: The Movie" won over twenty awards including nine Best Documentaries, three best Film Score, and Best Debut Filmmaker at Tampa Bay Black Art and Film Festival, Queens Underground Film Festival and Hollywood Gold Awards to name a few; and

**WHEREAS**, "Black Daddy: The Movie" will premiere Father's Day weekend, June 17<sup>th</sup> Through 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 in Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the priority for the City of Oakland to invest in the Black family and we value black fatherhood in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes the detrimental effects of the myths that most Black fathers are absent from their homes or that most Black children grow up without their fathers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes that there is a difference between the number of unmarried dads and the number of “fatherless” children. Also, marriage rates don’t necessarily reflect the number of Black fathers living with their children; as writer Josh Levs [points out](#), the majority of Black dads (2.5 million of around 4.2 million) do live with their kids, even if they’re not married to their partner; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a [2013 report by the CDC](#), Black dads—whether they live with their children, or not—are more actively involved in their children’s lives than their counterparts of other races; and

**WHEREAS**, for example, the CDC reports that Black fathers who live with their children are more likely than fathers of other races to provide physical care (bathe, diaper, feed) for their young children, read to their children, and help their children with their homework—all on a daily basis—than fathers of other races who also cohabitate with their kids; and

**WHEREAS**, the report also reveals that, among dads who don’t live with their children, Black dads are more likely to be involved in care, including reading to their children, helping them with homework, talking to them about their days, and taking them to activities, than Hispanic or white dads who live apart from their kids. Non-residential Black fathers are also the *least* likely to report that they’re not at all involved in the care of their children, including bathing, dressing, changing diapers, and playing with their children; and

**WHEREAS**, in a 2008 survey of low-income mothers, researchers found that “nonresident white fathers were less involved with their children than African-American and Latino fathers.” In a 2018 study of “nonmarital” births, mothers reported that Black fathers “shared responsibilities more frequently and displayed more effective coparenting than Hispanic and White fathers;” and

**WHEREAS**, as journalist German Lopez [writes](#), when it comes to Black fatherhood, “absence is not the norm. Active, involved parenthood is.” We know that fatherhood is an important goal for the majority of Black men. In a [survey of over 1,300 Black men](#) ages 18–29, 83% said that having children is somewhat or very important to them; and

**WHEREAS**, Black men aren’t significantly more or less likely to have children than other races; [census reports](#) show that about 75% of white men, 80% of Black men, 81% of Asian men, and 83% of Hispanic men ages 40–49 have kids. On average, Black men have or expect to have 2.4 children; that number is 2.5 for Hispanic men, 2.1 for white men, and 2.0 for Asian men, according to a [2010 report](#). We can conclude that fatherhood is equally important to Black men as to men of other races; and

**WHEREAS**, centuries of institutional racism—including lower levels of wealth and income, environmental degradation, provider racism, and other factors—have produced stark health disparities between Black people and white people. We know, according to the most recent national healthcare report, that African-Americans are more likely to experience heart failure, stroke, diabetes, urinary tract infection, obesity, substance abuse, cancer, and myriad other health issues, and

**WHEREAS**, a developmental, life-span approach to understanding fathers' impacts on the health and well-being of African-American boys and girls is necessary for the development of programming and policy that seeks to address long-standing health disparities among this population; and

**WHEREAS**, studies support this approach as particularly relevant for understanding African-American fathers' involvement with their children (Bowman, 1990; McAdoo, 1988). For instance, work has emphasized how ecological context (e.g., social support; economic resources; social stressors) as well as intergenerational experiences influence fathering identities and paternal engagement (Roy 2006); now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland recognizes Damon Jamal Taylor and other local artists on their award winning documentary “Black Daddy: The Movie” and supporting the film’s premiere on Father’s Day weekend June 17 through June 19, 2022.

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