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Oakland City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY:

Council President Patricia Kernighan and City Attorney Barbara J. Parker

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGENDARY *WHISPERS*, HONORING AND THANKING *THE WHISPERS* FOR PROVIDING HALF A CENTURY OF TIMELESS, BEAUTIFUL, MELODIC, BALLADS AND FOOT-PATting DANCE MUSIC WITH SILKY VOICES AND HARMONY THAT ARE NATIONAL TREASURES AND DECLARING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2014 *THE WHISPERS* DAY IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND

WHEREAS, in 1963 *THE WHISPERS* began their legendary and timeless career when twin brothers Walter "Scotty" and Wallace Scott joined with friends Nicholas Caldwell, Marcus Hutson, and Gordy Harmon to form a local singing group in Los Angeles, California and began singing together as "the Eden trio" created by Nicholas Caldwell and Marcus Hutson; and

WHEREAS, the group was renamed "*THE WHISPERS* " by Lou Bedell of Dore Records; and *THE WHISPERS* perfected their tight harmonies on the street corners in the Watts section of Los Angeles and in nightclubs in the Oakland/San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, Leaveil Degree, former Friends of Distinction member, replaced Gordy Harmon after he injured his larynx in a 1973 driving accident; and

WHEREAS, in 1992 Marcus Hutson left the group due to illness and The Whispers vowed to never replace him and thereafter have performed as a quartet, and

WHEREAS, *THE WHISPERS* is one of Rhythm and Blues ("R&B") music's most beloved and consistently popular vocal groups; and

WHEREAS, *THE WHISPERS* recorded nine singles between 1964 and 1967 and the group's fame grew in the Bay Area when they competed in "The Battle of the Bands" against other local acts and in 1970 released their first Top 10 R&B hit, "Seems Like I Gotta Do Wrong;" and

WHEREAS, *THE WHISPERS* produced a string of hits over the next two decades and emerged as the leading romantic singers of their generation, racking up one gold album after another and charting numerous R&B hits throughout the seventies and eighties, such as "And the Beat Goes On", "Rock Steady", "I Only Meant to Wet My Feet", "Lady," "(Olivia) Lost and Turned Out," "It's a Love Thing," "A Song for Donny," and "Happy Holidays to You;" and

WHEREAS, *THE WHISPERS* recorded several platinum albums and singles that topped the charts or reached the top twenty; and

WHEREAS, *THE WHISPERS* arguably are the most celebrated R&B balladeers of their generation and still make women swoon with the silky and rich tenors of twins Walter and Scotty; and

WHEREAS, in this new century the group continues to perform around the world to thousands of loyal fans, taking Las Vegas by storm, selling out in various casinos and hotels, and the group has a tremendous following on the West and East coasts, particularly in the Oakland/San Francisco Bay Area, Southern California, New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia, Washington DC, St. Louis, Indiana, and Chicago; and

WHEREAS, *THE WHISPERS*, have received numerous awards and recognitions including September 23, 2003 induction into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame, June 12, 2005, Governors Award from the San Francisco Chapter of the Grammy Awards (the highest honor bestowed by an Academy Chapter), Seven Gold Albums, Two Platinum Albums, 12 Top Twenty Singles, 40 Charted Hits Since 1970, American Music Award Nominees, Soul Train Award Nominees, Grammy Award Nominees, 2003 Vocal Group Hall of Fame Inductees, 2005 Regional Grammy Governors Award, and the 2002 NAACP Image Award; and

WHEREAS, *THE WHISPERS* also are active in the community and are recognized for their charitable work with youth that participate in the PAL (Police Athletic League) Reading Program, and provide ongoing support to domestic violence organizations and cancer agencies; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, November 29, 2014, ***THE WHISPERS*** will perform at Oakland's Paramount Theatre; **now therefore be it**

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland and the Oakland City Council, on behalf of our cities' residents, commemorate and proclaim the extraordinary milestone of 50th anniversary of the legendary ***WHISPERS***, honor and express our deep gratitude for half a century of timeless, beautiful, melodic ballads and foot-patting dance music with silky voices and harmony that are national treasures; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council declares Saturday, November 29, 2014 **THE WHISPERS** day in the City of Oakland on the occasion of **THE WHISPERS** concert at the Paramount Theatre and in recognition of five decades of classic, joyous and soul stirring music.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

AYES -

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTIONS -

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California