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OAKLAND

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# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY  
AND COUNCILMEMBER DESLEY BROOKS

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**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE WEEK OF APRIL 19-25, 2015  
AS "OAKLAND VEG WEEK" IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND  
TO ENCOURAGE OAKLAND RESIDENTS TO TAKE THE VEG  
PLEDGE TO EAT VEGETARIAN FOR 1 WEEK.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland is committed to the health and well-being of its residents and the vitality of our local environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland is committed to sustainable and environmentally friendly practices to ensure the longevity of our planet; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2011 poll by Gallup, nearly 16 million residents of the United States practice vegetarianism; and

**WHEREAS**, reducing the consumption of meat reduces the risk of heart disease, which is the most common natural cause of death among women and men; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Institute for Cancer Research recommends reducing meat consumption to help reduce the risk of various cancers; and

**WHEREAS**, 42 percent of Oakland children are overweight or obese and according to a study from the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, a "decrease in meat consumption may help improve weight management"; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations recognizes that "Livestock are one of the most significant contributors to today's most serious environmental problems" and recommends that everyone "eat less meat, poultry and fish" as a way to curb climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the PB&J Campaign, one meatless lunch saves 2.5 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, 24 feet of land and 133 gallons of water; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2010, the Oakland Unified School District has supported "Meatless Mondays" as a means to reduce meat consumption, promote healthier plant-based meal options, and reduce the District's environmental impact through meat-free school lunches each Monday; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture reports that 9.1 billion animals were slaughtered for food in the United States in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, if every United States resident refrained from eating meat once a week, approximately 1.4 billion animal lives could be saved; and

**WHEREAS**, Oakland will host the inaugural Veg Fest on April 25, 2015 at the Lake Merritt Amphitheatre as a celebration of vegetarianism with food samples, speakers and local merchants; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** the City of Oakland declares the week of April 19-26 as "Oakland Veg Week," encourages residents to consume vegetarian foods, and urges grocery stores, restaurants, and schools to provide a greater selection of vegetarian food options during "Veg Week" and throughout the year.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLEN, KALB, KAPLAN, REID AND  
PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY

NOES -  
ABSENT -  
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

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