

2015 MAY 14 PM 2:59

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY 2015 AS NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO ADVOCATE AND VOLUNTEER FOR PROGRAMS THAT ALEVIATE OR PREVENT POVERTY INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: WRAP-AROUND RE-ENTRY SERVICES, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, AND YOUTH MENTORING.

WHEREAS, President Lyndon Baines Johnson created Community Action Agencies when he signed into law the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 as part of his "Great Society"; and

WHEREAS, the Community Action Partnership serves as the networking of entities working to eliminate poverty and whose mission statement is: "to strengthen, promote, represent and serve the network of member agencies to assure that the issues of poverty are effectively presented and addressed;" and

WHEREAS, for more than 50-years, Community Action Agencies have had a rich history of promoting self-sufficiency for America's low-income families; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the United States Census Bureau reported that **46.5 million** U.S. residents, or nearly **15%** of the population, live in poverty, which is the highest percentage on record; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau currently reports that **13.0%** (**201,303**) of Alameda County's population and **20.5%** (**80,274**) of Oakland's population lives below the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, **1 out of every 5 children** in Oakland lives in poverty; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, approximately 33,747 Oakland households were utilizing CalFresh (also known as 'food stamps') in order to buy groceries; and

WHEREAS, according to the Alameda County Community Food Bank, **1 in 6** Alameda County residents visits a food bank, shelter or soup kitchen at least one time a year; and

WHEREAS, **43%** of the Alameda County residents utilizing food assistance services are youth; and

WHEREAS, according to a report executed by EveryOneHome, there were **4,264** homeless people living in Alameda County in January 2013; and

WHEREAS, in the report done by EveryOneHome, **32%** of the homeless population in Alameda County are families with children; and

WHEREAS, since 1971, the Alameda County – Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP) has been helping people and changing lives by providing innovative programs and services to help improve access and opportunities for Alameda County's low income families; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County – Oakland Community Action Partnership Administering Board remains committed to its mission of improving the community by creating pathways that lead to economic empowerment and prosperity for all; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County – Oakland Community Action Partnership and its Community Economic Opportunity (CEO) Network of partners are working together to end poverty within the City of Oakland and throughout Alameda County; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Oakland is committed to building a city in which all communities and families can thrive; and where all working families are provided a living wage, affordable housing, quality health care, and excellent education in an effort to eradicate poverty; and be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Oakland encourages residents to volunteer and advocate for programs known to alleviate or eliminate the cycle of poverty, such as early childhood education programs, high school graduation, youth mentoring, and wrap-around re-entry services; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council does hereby proclaim May 2015 as National Community Action Month in the City of Oakland in recognition of the services and advocacy of over one thousand Community Action Agencies nationwide who provide assistance to the millions of Americans who are living in poverty throughout our nation.

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:

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