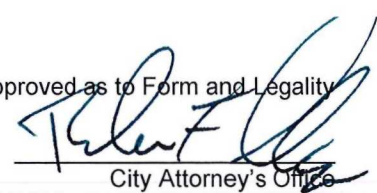


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City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER CAMPBELL WASHINGTON AND COUNCIL
PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORKER COOPERATIVES IN OAKLAND

WHEREAS, Oakland and the San Francisco Bay Area are home to the highest concentration of worker-owned businesses in the United States; and

WHEREAS, worker cooperatives are owned and democratically governed by their members, provide wages and benefits above industry average, develop leadership and management skills, and build wealth for low to moderate income community members; and

WHEREAS, worker cooperatives create and maintain quality, stable jobs in key industries in Oakland, including green cleaning, food service, and construction; and

WHEREAS, Oakland is a hub for worker cooperatives and coop developers, home to California's first Worker Coop Academy, headquarters of the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives, Democracy at Work Institute, Sustainable Economies Law Center, Project Equity, Arizmendi Association of Cooperatives, and well-known cooperatives such as Mandela Marketplace, Design Action Collective, and DIG Coop; and

WHEREAS, Oakland-based Arizmendi Association supports a network of six Bay Area worker cooperative bakeries which have over 160 members. Arizmendi Association bakers earn more than double the national median wage for bakers and receive health insurance, paid vacation, and a share of all profits; and

WHEREAS, the *Oakland Workforce Investment Board Strategic Plan (2013-2017)* prioritizes investing in businesses that offer career pathway opportunities and growing a pipeline for job seekers to become entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, Oakland ranked #7 among cities with the highest income inequality, with households in the top 5% making nearly 12 times as much money as households in the bottom 20%; and

WHEREAS, retiring baby boomers own 66% of all businesses with employees, most do not have succession plans. A lack of succession planning is the #1 preventable cause of job loss; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations declared 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives and encouraged governments “to establish policies, laws and regulation conducive to cooperative formation and growth”; and

WHEREAS, the worker cooperative sector is growing in other East Bay cities, such as Berkeley, Emeryville, and Richmond; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council supports the development and growth of worker cooperatives; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Business Assistance Center shall provide tailored resources created by community organizations and make referrals to technical assistance providers for individuals seeking to launch new worker cooperatives or convert conventional businesses to worker ownership; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council celebrates the tremendous benefits of worker cooperatives in Oakland and supports the movement to create more worker cooperatives throughout the region.

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