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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

2016 SEP - 1 AM 10: 34

## AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Sabrina B. Landreth  
City Administrator

**FROM:** Jeff Tumlin  
Acting Director Department  
Transportation

**SUBJECT:** Honoring Bessie Coleman And  
Renaming The Airport Access Road  
to Bessie Coleman Drive In Her Honor

**DATE:** July 11, 2016

City Administrator Approval

Date:

8/31/16

### RECOMMENDATION

**Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Honoring Bessie Coleman And Renaming The Airport Access Road to Bessie Coleman Drive In Her Honor.**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Port of Oakland has renamed the portion of the Airport Access Road within Port property to Bessie Coleman Drive. Approval of this Resolution will rename that portion of Airport Access Road within the City of Oakland jurisdiction to Bessie Coleman Drive.

Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman (January 26, 1892 – April 30, 1926) was the first African American and Native American female pilot. Bessie Coleman was known as "Queen Bess" as she made many appearances in airshows honoring veterans of World War I and delivered stunning demonstrations of daredevil maneuvers.

### BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

California Government Code Section 314091 allows a jurisdiction by Resolution to name a new public street or to rename an existing public street. City Resolution (77967 C.M.S.) establishes the criteria for Public Street Renaming. The City Council may, by its own motion, consider the renaming of a public street as a tribute to an individual, or as a result of a significant event or activity, if the following criteria are met:

1. The individual has positively impacted the lives of a nation or the world;
2. The name change is related to an economic development or redevelopment activity;
3. The renaming commemorates a significant historical event.

The honorable City Council Member Larry Reid representing District 7 filed an application to rename Airport Access Road in honor of Bessie Coleman. The request was reviewed with the Department of Planning and Building, Public Works, Fire Department, and Police Departments and no objections to the proposed name change were received.

Item: \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Works Committee  
September 13, 2016

In compliance with City process established by Resolution 77967 C.M.C. staff also mailed notification letters to the adjacent property owners (Bay Area Rapid Transit District and Balaji Enterprises LLC.) fronting the current Airport Access Road regarding the proposed street name change. No objection or feedback on renaming was received.

A map of street renaming is included in the Exhibit attached to the Resolution.

### **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

Currently, there are many roadways worldwide that are named after Bessie Coleman, such as at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Oakland International Airport in Oakland, Tampa International Airport in Florida, and Frankfurt International Airport in Germany.

The portion of Airport Access Road within the Port of Oakland Property was renamed to Bessie Coleman Drive on January 29, 2014. This Resolution will complete renaming of the Airport Access Road in the City so the name is in concert with the Port of Oakland.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Costs for street name change will be reimbursed by the District 7 Council Office in accordance with the Master Fee Schedule. Funds are currently budgeted in the amount of \$7,294.00 in Fund 2211 (Measure B, organization 94001 (CIP Council), project B247031 (District 7 Neighborhood Measure B.)

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST**

As noted above, staff formally reached out to the property owners by regular and registered mail and received no objection or feedback.

### **COORDINATION**

Street renaming notifications were sent to the Oakland Fire, Police, Planning, Building, Finance and Management, Airport Station US Post Office (local postmaster), Alameda County Recorder's Office, public utility companies, and reviewed by the Controller's Bureau and Office of the City Attorney. The aforementioned departments and agencies will be notified again prior to Public Works Department's plan to change the street name.

### **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Economic** – Street name change from Airport Access Road to Bessie Coleman Drive will have no significant economic impact.

**Environmental** – Street name change from Airport Access Road to Bessie Coleman Drive in the City will provide consistency with the portion of roadway within the Port of Oakland already renamed as Bessie Coleman Drive.

**Social Equity** – Street name change is to honor Bessie Coleman as the first African American female pilot in the United States.

**CEQA**

The California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and the CEQA Guidelines exempt specific types of projects from environmental review. The following CEQA exemptions apply to street name change: CEQA Guidelines sections 15061(b)(3), no significant effect on the environment.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Honoring Bessie Coleman And Renaming The Airport Access Road to Bessie Coleman Drive In Her Honor.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Gus Amirzehni, Engineering Design and Right-of-Way Manager at (510) 238-6601.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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JEFF TUMLIN  
Acting Director, Department of  
Transportation

Reviewed by:  
Michael J. Neary, P.E., Assistant Director  
Bureau of Engineering and Construction

Gus Amirzehni, P.E., Division Manager  
Engineering Design and R.O.W.

Prepared by:  
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Engineering Design and R.O.W. Mgmt Division

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OAKLAND

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# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney

RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_

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## RESOLUTION HONORING BESSIE COLEMAN AND RENAMING THE AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD TO BESSIE COLEMAN DRIVE IN HER HONOR

**WHEREAS**, California Government Code Section 314091 allows a jurisdiction by Resolution to name a new public street or to rename an existing public street; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution No. 77967 C.M.S. the honorable Larry Reid (Council Member) current member Of the Council of the City of Oakland representing District 7 did request that the City Council rename Airport Access Road To Bessie Coleman Drive; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the request by the Councilmember, the City Engineer notified through United States mail with certified postage and return receipt the owners of parcels along the portion of Airport Access Road in the City (Exhibit attached to this Resolution) for street name change honoring Bessie Colman; and

**WHEREAS**, property owners abutting Airport Access Road were advised in their notification letter and the ballot that the City Council could at its option approve the renaming of said portion of Airport Access Road or as an alternative retain the street name in its current name, Airport Access Road; and

**WHEREAS**, property owners were each provided a ballot attached to each notice on which they could indicate their preference in support of changing the street name from Airport Access Road to Bessie Coleman Drive or retaining the street name as Airport Access Road or no opinion about retaining or changing the street name; and

**WHEREAS**, property owners were advised in said notices that the failure of to return the ballots within the allotted time is considered a vote in favor of renaming of Airport Access Road To Bessie Coleman Drive in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, City did not received any marked or unmarked ballot or any feedback indicating any preference on street name change or retention of the street name; and

**WHEREAS**, City notified Oakland Fire, Police, Planning, Building, Finance and Management, Airport Station US Post Office (local postmaster), Alameda County Recorder's Office, and public utility companies of the request and the intent by the Council to rename said portion of Airport Access Road to Bessie Coleman Drive; and

**WHEREAS**, expenditures will be reimbursed by the office of honorable Council Member in accordance with the Master Fee Schedule; and

**WHEREAS**, the naming of a new public street or the renaming of an existing public street is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines sections 15061(b)(3) indicating as no significant effect on the environment; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Council of the City of Oakland hereby approves the renaming of Airport Access Road in the City of Oakland to Bessie Coleman Drive in honor of Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:**

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That pursuant to California Government Code Section 34092 the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the County Recorder's Office.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

**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

EXHIBIT: Rename Airport Access Road to Bessie Coleman Drive

EXHIBIT: Rename Airport Access Road to Bessie Coleman Drive

