

2017 JAN 26 PM 4:37

Approved as to Form and Legality
DRAFT
City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY VICE MAYOR CAMPBELL WASHINGTON AND
COUNCIL PRESIDENT REID

**ADOPT A RESOLUTION HONORING BROOKE A. LEVIN FOR 26 YEARS OF
EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO OAKLAND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND
CONGRATULATING HER ON HER RETIREMENT**

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin arrived in Oakland California on Presidents Day weekend in 1979 and has been a loyal resident and community member for the past 38 years, she has raised two Oakland natives; her sons, Leland J. Levin and Zeal B. Levin in this great City; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin began her involvement with the City of Oakland as a neighborhood organizer and activist in 1986 when she was elected to the Rockridge Community Planning Council and later as the Chairperson; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin began her professional adventure with the City of Oakland as Policy Advisor to Mayor Elihu Harris in 1991 as part of a new and dynamic team of staff led by Chief of Staff Larry Reid; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin as Policy Advisor for Planning and Public Works led the efforts for the "We Mean Clean" program, Oakland Sharing the Vision strategic plan for the City, established the General Plan Fee for Oakland's future, and held a leadership role on many initiatives after the 1991 Oakland Hills Firestorm where over 3,000 homes were destroyed, created the One-Stop Disaster Center (now a national model for FEMA), led the Oakland/Berkeley Task Force, and conceived and created the healing Firestorm Tile Mural with 2,300 tiles at Rockridge BART Station; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin, in 1993, was part of the City's winning team that competed for the designation of All America City in Tampa, Florida, a designation the City had last received in 1956; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin was appointed Oakland's first Environmental Services Manager in 1994 and continued in that role for 10 years, leading the City efforts to bring all environmental programs under one umbrella, including volunteer stewardship, environmental remediation and compliance, recycling and solid waste, and the watershed program, Earth Day, Creek to Bay Day, Environmental Expo, Adopt-A-Spot, Stop Graffiti Fair and many other community engaging programs started under Ms. Levin's leadership; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin was instrumental in bringing curbside green waste recycling to the residents of Oakland in 1995 as a major innovation to the City's waste reduction efforts which was later expanded to include compostable (food waste), the adoption of the Construction and Demolition Debris Ordinance, and led the effort to eliminate dioxin from the environment, and managed the creation and implementation of the Creek Protection Storm Water Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin was the Executive Producer of the award winning "Doing the Green Thing", a ten part series of videos about the environment and how everyday people could get engaged in making a difference in reducing waste, saving energy and beautification of the community; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Ms. Brooke A. Levin created the "Hands on Oakland" banners for the inauguration of Mayor Jerry Brown, where hundreds of people took part in outlining their hand and expressing their vision of Oakland, to be displayed at the Henry J. Kaiser Arena and later in City Hall; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin was appointed Assistant Director of the Public Works Agency in 2004 overseeing Keep Oakland Clean and Beautiful, Facilities Services, Environmental Services and the newly re-organized Parks and Trees Divisions, with over 400-FTE serving the day to day needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin created the Public Works Call Center after realizing the need to consolidate many entry points with no overall call management into what is now a one-stop number for the Public Works Call Center, handling over 70,000 intakes last year; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin led two efforts to adopt a new Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District in order for the City to enhance maintenance of parks, trees, street lighting and recreation facilities; even without the LLAD increase, and used her creative ability to propose a series of policies to benefit the City's use of the limited funding, the Council adopted all the proposed policies including requiring a Plant Establishment Period of up to three years for all new Capital Projects; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin has served as a leader and member of many Citywide teams including, Oakland Sharing the Vision, coordinated the Mayor's Emergency Preparation and Community Restoration Task Force, Oakland Moving Forward, Beautification Task Force, We Mean Clean Task Force, Operation Hot Spot, Grime and Crime Task Force, Rapid Results, Code Enforcement Action Team, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin has done extensive work to support the City of Oakland's emergency response, beginning with the 1991 Oakland Hills Firestorm, setting up the One Stop Center now a model used by FEMA nationally, Training with CSTI in San Luis Obispo, and as the head of Logistics for the City, planning for events, civil unrest, Public Works storm emergencies, El Nino (twice), Occupy Oakland, General Strike and most recently the tragic Ghost Ship Warehouse Fire and winter storms 2017; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin was appointed Interim Director of Public Works in August 2013, and made Director in June 2014, taking on the leadership of the Public Works Agency with 750 Full Time staff and an operating budget of \$199 million dollars, Capital Budget of \$40 million dollars and responsibility for a wide range of City infrastructure and programs; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin was responsible for the amazing Measure DD projects at Lake Merritt, City park improvement projects, transportation projects, street sweeping, illegal dumping removal, cutting and cleaning, graffiti removal, park maintenance, hazardous tree response, operation, maintenance and capital work on the 304 City owned facilities including the 102 year old Oakland City Hall, energy efficiency for City facilities, sustainability programs, volunteer support, maintaining and acquiring the City fleet, maintaining and replacing sewer lines and pumps, maintaining the drainage system, maintaining the City streets with very limited resources including the annual "Pothole Blitz", bike and pedestrian projects, maintaining the street lights and traffic signals and cross walks, conducting safety training for all employees, operating the Public Works Call Center, designing neighborhood traffic safety improvements, building ADA curb ramps, managing the Parking garages; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin was responsible for major projects taking place including, conversion of City street lights from high energy use lights to conserving LED lighting, conversion of old outdated parking meters to the new high performing electronic meter system, the Latham Square restoration, Fleet 3.0 which is replacing 100's of outdated vehicles, creation of a GIS Agreements layer that contains documentation on agreements with outside entities such as BART, ACT, private developments, Port of Oakland and many more, Zero Waste, a variety of energy efficient and sustainable projects; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin has worked on increasing community stewardship with volunteers beginning in 1991, along with today's Adopt-A-Spot with more than 90,000 volunteer hours donated in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin has been a leader in giving back to the community through the Combined Charites Campaign, raising over \$45,000 in one year - the highest of any City Department, Employees adopted families for the holidays, and recently sent care packages to the troops overseas, which shows just a few examples of giving back to this great community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin has been involved with more than ten reorganizations involving Public Works; including the disbanding of the Office of General Services which sent Fleet, Electrical and Facilities to Public Works, the many changes to where Parking Enforcement was housed- starting with Public Works, then Finance, then OPD and now DOT, move of Public Works Engineering and Construction to CEDA and back, move of Engineering Services from Planning and Building to Public Works, move of parks, trees and custodians from Parks and Recreation to Public Works, move of ballfield maintenance from Parks and Recreation to Public Works and finally, the Public Works – Department of Transportation reorganization; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin used her creative side to found the City Employee Art Show, City Stitchers Knitting Group, taught an employee yoga class, produced the Yoga for Peace

event, Founding artist for the Autumn Lights Festival, member of the Pollinator Posse and many other community building initiatives over her tenure with the City; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin had the honor to serve 5 Mayors, 13 City Manager/Administrators, 29 City Councilmembers, and four Public Works Directors which adds up to having worked for more than 51 “bosses” over her 26 years with the City; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin prided herself on mentoring and coaching Public Works, City staff and staff in other cities through her designation as a Public Works Leadership Fellow, has been committed to serving the great community of Oakland with her eyes and ears always peeled on what needs to be done, uses SeeClickFix, Call Center 510-615-5566, emails OPWcallcenter@oaklandnet.com or uses the City website www.oaklandnet.com to report each and every thing that needs to be fixed; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brooke A. Levin is an avid Warriors fan, who will enjoy watching (and hopefully attending games), expanding her creative and artistic practice, taking yoga and bird watching to a new level and traveling to see her 89 year old father, Dr. Lowell Levin and her 90 year old cousin, Ms. Hope Copeland, seeing her Musician son Zeal performing and wishing for the safe return of her older son Sergeant Leland J. Levin, U.S. Army from his overseas deployment so he can return home safely to his wife, Alice Levin and his entire family; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the City of Oakland honors, commends and extends sincere gratitude to Ms. Brooke A. Levin for her 26 years of exceptional, devoted and innovative service to the City of Oakland.

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