



City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 88234 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER KALB

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**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY  
BILL 1550 (BONTA) TO END DISCRIMINATORY 911 CALLS BASED  
ON A PERSON'S RACE, RELIGION, SEX OR ANY OTHER  
PROTECTED CLASS BY MAKING SUCH CALLS HATE CRIMES AND  
ESTABLISHING CIVIL LIABILITY.**

**WHEREAS**, false racist and discriminatory 911 calls are dangerous and demeaning to the person falsely accused; and

**WHEREAS**, across the country a number of high-profile cases have occurred where people have called the police on Black men for simply living their lives. Individuals calling police on a Black man birdwatching in New York City and calling 911 on a Black man dancing in the City of Alameda have highlighted discriminatory 911 calls involving protected classes such as race; and

**WHEREAS**, here in Oakland, in April of 2018, a woman nicknamed "BBQ Becky" as a result of this incident, called 911 on Black men using a charcoal grill at Lake Merritt's designated grilling zone saying to the 911 operator: "I'm really scared! Come quick!"; and

**WHEREAS**, such 911 calls deteriorate the relationships between Black communities and law enforcement by criminalizing behavior that is not criminal, weaponizing the police against Black communities and other marginalized groups, and by falsely accusing individuals of crimes that have not occurred; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 1550 will address this issue by making certain baseless and discriminatory 911 calls a felony hate crime in the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 1550 will protect many Californians from becoming targets of hate based on race or ethnicity, gender, disability, nationality, religion or sexual orientation; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 1550 will create civil liability and give a vehicle for victims of false and discriminatory 911 calls to pursue civil recourse; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City Council hereby endorses AB 1550 and urges the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom to support its enactment into law.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

**JUL 21 2020**

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND  
PRESIDENT KAPLAN - 8

NOES - 0  
ABSENT - 0  
ABSTENTION - 0

ATTEST:



ASHA REED

Acting City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California