



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 6, 2018

TO: Carolyn Lehr, City Manager

FROM: Sheri Hartz, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville Recognizing the Significance of Black History Month And Directing That The Pan-African Flag Be Flown At City Hall For The Month Of February 2018

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the City Council consider the resolution recognizing Black History Month and whether to direct that the Pan-African flag be flown at City Hall for the month of February 2018.

BACKGROUND

Each year in the United States, the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, a practice which dates back to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time to recognize the heritage and achievement of Black Americans. The theme of Black History Month for 2018 is "African Americans in Times of War," to commemorate the centennial of the end of the World War I in 1918, and to provide a broad, useful framework for focusing on the roles of African-Americans in every American war, from the Revolutionary War Era to that of the present "War against Terrorism".

DISCUSSION

This year's Black History Month theme provides an opportunity to consider the unique issues faced by African-Americans in both of war and peacetime, including opportunities for advancement and repression of opportunities; the impact of migration and urban development; educational opportunities; health care development; the roles of civil rights and Black liberation organizations; the roles of African-American businesses, women, religious institutions, and the Black press; and how Black soldiers and veterans are memorialized in history - diverse stories that reveal war's impact not only on the men and women in uniform, but on the larger African-American community.

This year, Mayor Bauters has proposed that, as part of the City's recognition of Black History Month, the Pan-African flag be flown at City Hall for the month of February. The Pan-African flag, also referred to as the UNIA (Universal Negro Improvement Association) flag, Afro-American flag or Black Liberation Flag, is a tri-color flag consisting of three

equal horizontal bands colored red, black and green. The Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL) formally adopted it on August 13, 1920 in Article 39 of the Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World, and variations of the flag have been used in various countries and territories in Africa and the Americas to represent Pan-Africanist ideology. Various Pan-African organizations and movements also often employ the flag's colors for their activities.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

PREPARED BY: Sheri Hartz, City Clerk

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



Carolyn Lehr, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Resolution