

## **Proclamation honoring Fred Davis Jackson for his exemplary service to the Richmond community**

Whereas, February is Black History Month and a time when we emphasize the importance of honoring the many accomplishments and contributions of African Americans to our society; and

Whereas, Fred Davis Jackson is a peacemaker, community-builder, writer and educator who has lived in Richmond ever since moving here from Mississippi in the 1950's and who has profoundly influenced the lives of countless people in our community; and

Whereas, Fred Jackson continually demonstrates his deep love of humanity across all races and ethnicities, which he endearingly refers to as "the human bouquet"; and

Whereas Fred Jackson is an inspiration to all who are seeking to overcome challenges, whether through words of sincere encouragement one-on-one or through his exhilarating oratory at public meetings; and

Whereas, as a peace and social justice activist, Fred Jackson sat in at lunch counters in the South during the 1960's Civil Rights movement; participated in the walk from San Pablo to Sacramento with March4Education and then fasted for 19 days with Fast4Education for more equitable school funding in 2004; has been a constant anti-death penalty advocate; was a leader in the movement to save the life of Stanley "Tookie" Williams, who was executed in 2005; is a promoter of violence prevention initiatives and books by Stanley "Tookie" Williams; supported the 2006-2008 Tent City Peace Movement vigils in Richmond, was a recipient of the 2000 Peacemaker Award in Contra Costa County; and

Whereas, as a community-builder, Fred Jackson, together with Pastor Tommy Bradford and Paul Foster, donated a parcel of land which enabled the City of Richmond, the Labor of Love Community Development Corporation and related companies to establish the Trinity Plaza housing complex for low-income seniors at Macdonald Ave. and 4<sup>th</sup> St.; and was named a "Hometown Hero" by the Bay Area News Group in 2010; and

Whereas, as a writer, Fred Jackson wrote, directed and produced the play Brother Dap at the Richmond auditorium in 1994, wrote a novel An Evolution in Black and White; wrote his soon to be published reflections Thoughts Set Free on the Wings of Expression; and has written and performs numerous songs, including "One Step at a Time", "Too Early Too Young", and "When the Ozone is Gone"; and

Whereas, as an educator, Fred Jackson has worked for many years at Neighborhood House of North Richmond on lead abatement, HIV education, the H.E.A.L. (Healthy Eating Active Living) collaborative; was a trainer in 2007-2008 of the Peace Empowerment Process for the World Wall for Peace at Helms Middle School, Crescent Park Multicultural Center, and Chris Adams Center; and this year introduced a Health Covenant uniting the community and church in a fight against diabetes; and

Whereas, the above mentioned accomplishments are but a few examples of the full range of contributions Fred Jackson has made to our community; and

Whereas, Fred Jackson is well-loved and respected throughout Richmond and the Bay Area by his friends, family, fellow activists and the full cross-section of people of all ages, races, ethnicities, genders and political beliefs who have the pleasure of interacting with him;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that I, Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, on behalf of the Richmond City Council, do hereby proclaim the City of Richmond's deep appreciation for the countless accomplishments and contributions that Fred Davis Jackson has made to our community; and

Be it further resolved, that we encourage all residents to join with Fred Jackson in continuing to build a better, healthier, more peaceful and socially just Richmond.