

RESOLUTION NO. 147-20

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND,
CALIFORNIA, URGING THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO INITIATE A
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY TO ANALYZE THE APPROPRIATENESS OF A
NATIONAL PARK OR MONUMENT IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA AND
THROUGHOUT THE GREATER SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
DEDICATED TO THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY AND URGING PRESIDENT-
ELECT JOSEPH R. BIDEN TO UTILIZE THE RESULTS OF THE
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY TO ESTABLISH SUCH A NATIONAL PARK OR
MONUMENT IN THE BAY AREA AND BEYOND**

WHEREAS, founded in 1966 by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, The Black Panther Party (the Panthers or the Party), originally called the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, was established in response to wide-spread poverty, lack of economic and educational opportunities, and police oppression faced by the African American community in Oakland, California; and

WHEREAS, pervasive and unrelenting police terrorism directed at communities of color during the 1960s made necessary the formation of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense; and

WHEREAS, numerous dedicated and courageous young people of African ancestry enlisted in the ranks of the Black Panther Party to monitor and deter police violence, and to staff community service programs called “survival programs” aimed at providing food, health care, legal assistance, transportation and other services to black residents and other people living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, promoting the idea of “All Power to the People,” the Panthers took action to bring about change and liberation from all forms of human exploitation and oppression; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, in response to the killing of Denzel Dowell in Richmond, California, the Panthers held a rally to protest against police brutality which helped establish the Party in the national spotlight; and

WHEREAS, the Party continued to have a presence in Richmond and North Richmond by providing free breakfast programs at 5th Street and Chelsey Avenue in the Shields-Reid neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, as the Panther’s influence grew nationwide, J. Edgar Hoover, then-director of the FBI, proclaimed that the Black Panther Party was “the greatest threat to the internal security” of the United States in 1968; and

WHEREAS, despite opposition from authorities throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the Panthers became a national force for social change, empowering a new generation of African Americans to seize political power, establishing partnerships with other disenfranchised communities around the country, and demonstrating that the legacy of slavery and racial oppression still prevented so many from experiencing the promise of prosperity and equality that is the foundation for the American dream; and

WHEREAS, nearly 55 years following the creation of the Party, the Panthers remain one of the most legendary freedom fighter organizations and social movements in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has yet to provide national recognition or a publicly accessible space for Americans of all races and backgrounds to learn about the history of the Panthers and their contributions to social progress nationwide; and

WHEREAS, national recognition is an appropriate acknowledgement for the thousands of people who dedicated their lives to feed families in their communities, educate their children, provide free medical services, and train a generation of organizers, academics and politicians, and fight for a freer world; and

WHEREAS, the public has demonstrated an interest in unbiased information and interpretation of the history of the Panthers, which is evident by the overwhelming success of the “All Power to the People: Black Panthers at 50” exhibit at the Oakland Museum of California in 2016 and 2017 and other tributes to the Party throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the spirit and roots of the Black Panther Party are still evident in Oakland and throughout the greater San Francisco Bay Area where there are several sites essential to the Panther’s legacy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond urges the National Park Service to initiate a Reconnaissance Survey to analyze the appropriateness of a National Park or National Monument in Oakland, California and throughout the greater San Francisco Bay Area dedicated to the Black Panther Party; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council urges President-Elect Joseph R. Biden to utilize the results of the Reconnaissance Survey to establish a Black Panther Party National Monument through the Antiquities Act (16. U.S.C. 431-433) in locations in the Bay Area and beyond that are appropriate and relevant to the Black Panther Party’s legacy.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held December 22, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Myrick, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt.
NOES: None.
ABSTENTIONS: None.
ABSENT: Councilmember Willis.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

THOMAS K. BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

TERESA STRICKER
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 147-20**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on December 22, 2020.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond