

RESOLUTION NO. 6-09

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF RENAMING THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE IN RICHMOND AS THE JUDGE GEORGE D. CARROLL COURTHOUSE

WHEREAS, retired Judge George D. Carroll was born on January 6, 1923 in Brooklyn, New York and served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was stationed overseas in Italy;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll moved to Berkeley, California in 1952 and moved to Richmond in 1954 and has been a Richmond resident since that time;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll graduated from Brooklyn College in 1943 and Brooklyn Law School in 1950 having been a member of the honor society and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1950;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll worked in the Office of the District Attorney of Kings County (Brooklyn) from 1946 to 1951 and was an attorney in private practice in New York from 1951 to 1952, and was the first African-American lawyer to practice law in Richmond when he opened his office in 1953 and served in private practice until 1965;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll was elected to the Richmond City Council in 1961 and served until 1965, and served as Mayor of the City of Richmond from July 1964 until his appointment as a Judge in May 1965 earning him the distinction of being the first African-American to become mayor of a major U.S. city;

WHEREAS, Governor Edmund G. ("Pat") Brown appointed Judge Carroll to the Contra Costa Municipal Court in May 1965 making Judge Carroll the first African-American Judge to be appointed in Contra Costa County where he served until his retirement in 1985 after having been re-elected without opposition in 1970, 1976 and 1982;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll served six times as the Presiding Judge of the Bay Municipal Court and turned down an opportunity to be appointed a Superior Court Judge by Governor Edmund G. ("Jerry") Brown, Jr. in order to continue serving as a judge in Richmond;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll is a founding member of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association which is the nation's oldest and largest national association of predominately African-American lawyers and judges, and is a former member of the Charles Houston Bar Association, California Judges Association, American Bar Association, American Judicature Society, World Association of Judges of the World Peace Through Law Center, Board of Governors of the United Bay Area Crusade, Richmond Boys' Club, and the Neighborhood House of North Richmond;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll is a life member of the NAACP and the Sigma Pi Phi and Omega Phi Fraternities and was named Man of the Year in 1964 by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the San Francisco Sun Reporter newspaper, which was the first African-American-owned newspaper in the Bay Area;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll has been a well-respected community, political, legal and judicial leader in the Richmond and Contra Costa County community since the 1950s and is considered a trailblazer for people of color in the political, legal and judicial communities in West Contra Costa County;

WHEREAS, the Richmond Courthouse (located at 100 37th St., Richmond) is the major symbol of the judicial system in West County and is a major public community building where West County residents go to serve on juries, handle traffic, parking and small claims matters, visit the County District Attorneys' and Veterans' Services offices, and is adjacent to the County's Health Center;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council hereby honors and acknowledges Judge George D. Carroll (retired) for his decades of political and judicial leadership in Richmond and Contra Costa County and supports naming the Richmond Courthouse as the Judge George D. Carroll Courthouse.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held on February 3, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Ritterman, Rogers,
Viramontes, Vice Mayor Lopez, and Mayor McLaughlin.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

DIANE HOLMES
Clerk of the City of Richmond
(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE McLAUGHLIN
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RANDY RIDDLE
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. 6-09, finally passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a meeting held on February 3, 2009.