

CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2010

AGENDA ITEM No. 15

CONSENT CALENDAR

Proclamations

- A. The Late Mr. Tommie Roberts-Former member of the City's Planning Commission and Patron of the Ravenswood Little League (Meda Okelo, Director, Community Services)

- B. American Red Cross (Minette Warren, Deputy City Clerk, Office of the City Clerk)



PROCLAMATION

HONORING TOMMIE ROBERTS-AN ICON OF COMMUNITY

SERVICE, A CHAMPION OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND AN

ADVOCATE FOR HUMAN DECENCY.

WHEREAS, Tommie Roberts was born March 26, 1928 to Tom Roberts and Willie C. Burton in Meridian Mississippi and came to San Francisco's at age 15 with sister Bertha Roberts and brothers Virgus and Frank Roberts; and

WHEREAS, whilst still a high school student, Mr. Roberts worked part time at Greyhound Bus Company and did a myriad of other odd jobs after school to support his younger siblings, exuding early, a predisposition of care towards others that characterized his entire life; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from high school in 1950 he enlisted in the United States Army serving his country in the military in Germany for three years, and

WHEREAS, upon completion of his military tour in 1953, he rejoined the Greyhound Bus Company as a baggage clerk, and, in the following year, 1954 met Mamie McHenry whom he married following a brief courtship. A marriage that produced a son, Byron and a daughter Sonya; and

WHEREAS, in 1955 he left the Greyhound Bus Company to work for Muni as a bus driver, a job he held until 1964 when he moved to East Palo Alto from San Francisco and joined the state transportation agency CALTRANS, from whence he retired 27 years later having served as the Foster City Maintenance Regional Manager and overseeing maintenance on every state roadway from Cupertino to South San Francisco and from Foster City to the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, with his son Byron old enough to qualify to play Little League baseball, Mr. Roberts became involved with the Ravenswood Little League as a volunteer and worked with others to turn a patch of dirt that eventually became Martin Luther King Park into a field for youth baseball, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts subsequently was elected President of the Ravenswood Little League Board of Directors and served, intermittently in that position for over three decades, and as President grew the organization into a stellar organization that has served several generations of children garnering in the process enormous respect both within and outside the community, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts was actively involved in civic life, serving on the East Palo Alto Planning Commission from 1992 to 2003, participating in numerous oral panels for the hiring of key

management staff of the city, being a strong advocate for levee upgrades to protect East Palo Alto from flooding, perpetually being present at beat meetings as well as city council meetings advocating for citizen involvement on all matters of youth development as well as public safety, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts left his mark most in the lives that he touched: children that he taught or facilitated the teaching of baseball and life skills to; family members and friends that he loved dearly; acquaintances and everyone he charmed with his disarming respectful demeanor towards all; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Roberts also left his mark on the baseball field at Martin Luther King Park, a field he tended with such care and for which he rallied city staff, parents, volunteers and sundry to upgrade and care for with exquisite attention; and

WHEREAS, Mr. will forever be remembered for his commitment to service for others, his relentless desire to offer and see services offered to youth, his sense of civility and respect of all people, his love for East Palo Alto and his formidable passion for everything he did.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT the City of East Palo Alto honors Tommie Robert's life and his memory and be it further proclaimed that in recognition of his passing on January 28, 2010, the City hereby declares the week of February 14, 2010, **Tommie Roberts and Baseball Week** in East Palo Alto.

The **City Council** further enjoins the entire community to continue on the work of Tommie Roberts, by embodying the qualities that Tommie Roberts manifested in his life: respectfulness of others, civility in human interaction; commitment to the well being of youth directly through programs such as baseball and indirectly through providing the best of facilities for them.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I, David Woods Mayor of the City of East Palo Alto have hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of East Palo Alto to be affixed this 8th day of February 2010

David Woods,

Mayor, City of East Palo Alto



PROCLAMATION

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO
ACKNOWLEDGES IT APPRECIATION AND THANKS FOR
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS/BAY AREA, AND
PROCLAIMS MARCH 2010 AS AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH
IN THE CITY**

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross Bay Area was founded in 1898; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross, a leading voluntary agency, chartered and authorized by Congress to act in times of need, providing compassionate assistance to people afflicted by personal, local or national disasters; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross Bay Area helped 1900 people with temporary housing, clothing, food and mental health counseling during 360 local disasters last year alone; and

WHEREAS, Red Cross Volunteers responded to approximately 360 local emergencies this year, providing food, clothing, shelter and mental health support; and

WHEREAS, people have counted on the Red Cross for the information and skills they need to be safe at home, at work, at school and at play. Last year, the American Red Cross Bay Area trained over 157,000 people in lifesaving CPR, First Aid, and water safety

WHEREAS, through Prepare Bay Area initiative and Community Preparedness programs, over 407,000 individuals received training.

WHEREAS, Red Cross staff deploy with the U.S. military to provide emergency communications, counseling, financial assistance and a caring presence to 3,900 local military families; and

WHEREAS, Red Cross Blood Services support 31 Bay Area hospitals, providing them with more than 134,000 units of red cells, platelets and plasma to patients in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of east Palo Alto's City Council hereby proclaims March 2010 as **American Red Cross Month** in East Palo Alto and encourages all residents to be cognizant of the compassion, courage, character, civic duty that is inherent in the Red Cross mission to prevent and relieve human suffering.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I, David E. Wood, Mayor of the City of East Palo Alto have here unto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of East Palo Alto to be set this 16TH day of February 2010.

David E. Woods, Mayor
City of East Palo Alto