

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT/CITY OF BERKELEY

Resolution No. 15-049

**Marking March 20 to April 3, 2015 as
The Cesar E. Chavez and Dolores Huerta Commemorative Period
In the Berkeley Unified School District (District) and City of
Berkeley (City)**

WHEREAS, in 1996, the City of Berkeley changed the name of Waterfront Park to César Chávez Park; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Berkeley School Board voted unanimously on a resolution to support the development of the Chávez Memorial Solar Calendar Project; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Berkeley School Board passed a resolution supporting State Senator Richard Polanco's efforts to establish a César Chávez state holiday; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the State of California declared César Chávez's birthday an official state holiday for state workers (March 31st); and

WHEREAS, the District and City now honor Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and International Women's Day as school holidays; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the City voted on a resolution to support the development of the Chávez Memorial Solar Calendar at César Chávez Park; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the District's Resolution declared that César Chávez Day is not currently a District or City holiday in Berkeley; rather it is an experimental service learning alternative to a school and city holiday; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the District Resolution included the intended commitment to follow an approved implementation plan that strongly prioritizes the following:

- Distribute information on curricula and resources developed by the state for teachers,
- Encourage teachers, through announcements and publications, to incorporate curricula and resources into their lesson plans

- Encourage each school to have school-wide activities on or around March 31 to honor the legacy of Cesar Chavez; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the City along with the Cesar Chavez Commemoration Planning Committee began to celebrate a citywide commemorative period -- beginning on the Spring Equinox, March 20th, the beginning of the planting season in agriculture, continuing through Cesar Chavez' birthday, March 31st, and then on to April 23rd, the anniversary of the labor leader & environmentalist's death; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the City Wide Chávez Commemoration Committee, which is made up of teams from the City, District, UCB and the Community, voted to rotate the leadership of the committee each year among the teams (Community in 2015, District 2016 and City 2017); and

WHEREAS, as a part of the above Resolutions the District agreed to have one Board Director, the Public Information Officer, and the Supervisor of Family Engagement and Equity actively participate in the Chavez Commemoration Committee; and

WHEREAS, as part of the above Resolutions, the City agreed to have up to two Councilmembers or their aides and the Mayor's Chief of Staff or Senior Aide actively participate in the Chavez Commemoration Committee; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Chávez Commemoration Committee voted to also honor Dolores Huerta for her vital partnership with César Chávez, her dedicated commitment to farmworkers and the formation of the UFW, and now to her work with the Dolores Huerta Foundation - creating networks of healthy, organized communities pursuing social justice; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez and Dolores Huerta formed an amazing organizing team who believed that service to others was a calling, a mission and a way of life, not merely an occupation or an occasional act of charity. They both believed that people have an obligation to contribute to their communities and to help those in need. Both were and are committed to the idea that service not only strengthened a community, but that service benefited those individuals who joined together to improve a community.

WHEREAS, in 2014 the Committee voted to incorporate *Latino Heritage Month* into its planning and coordination process, which will continue under a team supervised by BAHIA (Bay Area Hispanic Institute for Advancement), and to hold and publicize events during the period of Sept 15th to October 15th each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Chavez committee concluded that despite 10-years of persistent effort with the District, school policy of a "community service learning" and a school holiday has not received the school wide traction that we had hoped and continue to hope for within the District and the Berkeley Federation of Teachers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chávez Commemoration Committee will become the *Chávez/Huerta Commemoration Committee*, and the city-wide Chávez web pages hosted by the Ecology Center will become *www.chavez/huerta.org*, and will develop a logo and other graphic material to reflect that change; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that *Latino Heritage Month* will come under the umbrella of the Latino Heritage Month Team of the Chávez/Huerta Commemoration Committee and be held during the period of Sept 15 to October 15; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the District and City) will make March 31st César Estrada Chávez Day and make April 10th Dolores Huerta Day in the District and City) and put this on all official publications of the District and the City); and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the District will redouble its commitment and strongly urge principals to (1) hold school based celebrations, (2) engage students in service to their community, as an alternative to a school holiday, during the commemorative period (March 20 to April 23), and (3) publicize widely what each school is doing to honor the legacies of César Chávez and Dolores Huerta;

AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that together the school board directors and city councilmembers are encouraged to participate in the Chávez/Huerta Commemorative Events at their respective "adoptive schools;" and districts.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED, this 11th day of March, 2015.

Karen Hemphill, Clerk