

**Berkeley Unified School District**  
**Resolution No. 12-27**

PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN  
HISTORY MONTH, FEBRUARY 2012 – IN RECOGNITION OF  
AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY

**WHEREAS**, in 1926, African American educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson first set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, since then, the month of February has come to be widely recognized as African American History Month; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, African American History Month focuses upon a theme of the history of African American people; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, the theme for African American History Month is African American Women in American Culture and History; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years, the numerous contributions of African American women in every aspect of American society have been instrumental in shaping America's history and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, African American women such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, Mary Church Terrell, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Shirley Chisholm, and Barbara Jordan inspired and led the civil rights movement and/or were key in developing a social and political agenda for the post-civil rights era; and

**WHEREAS**, African American educators and business women such as Mary McCloud Bethune, Mary Jane Patterson, Marva Collins, Marian Wright Edelman, Ruth Simmons, Madame C.J. Walker, and Oprah Winfrey have inspired generations to strive for the stars; and

**WHEREAS**, African American women artists and athletes such as Maya Angelou, Mahalia Jackson, Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, Josephine Baker, Aretha Franklin, Beverly Johnson, Tyra Banks, Wilma Rudolph, and Althea Gibson redefined American culture, beauty and strength; and

**WHEREAS**, in Berkeley, African American women such as Maudelle Shirek, a founder of the Berkeley Cooperative Credit Union, and member of the Berkeley City Council for more than 25 years, Frances Albrier, the first African American woman to run for the Berkeley City Council, Carol Davis, the first African American woman to be elected to the Berkeley City Council, Esther Jones Lee,

credited with being one of the key leaders in Berkeley's integration of public schools, Ruth Acty, Berkeley's first African American teacher, Jeannie Rucker, the first African American President of the Berkeley School Board, and Debra Pryor, the second African American woman in the United States to become a Fire Chief have been instrumental in Berkeley's history; and

**WHEREAS**, the contributions of African American women to American culture and history is also the story of countless nameless women who overcame lives of bondage and oppression, deprivation of civil rights and the ravages of bigotry and racism with amazing strength of character to become heroines and role models for us all;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** , that the Berkeley School Board, in recognition of the importance of African American History Month and especially in recognition of the many contributions made by African American women in shaping American culture and history and the role of African American women in shaping Berkeley's history, do hereby proclaim February 2012 as African American History Month in the Berkeley Unified School District.

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John T. Selawsky, President

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Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Clerk