



BERKELEY CITY COUNCILMEMBER
TERRY TAPLÍN
 DISTRICT 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
 February 28, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Taplin, Councilmember Bartlett (co-sponsor), Councilmember Kesarwani (co-sponsor), Mayor Arreguin (co-sponsor)

Subject: Resolution Condemning a Pattern of Attacks Targeting Black Political and Community Leaders

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Condemning a Pattern of Attacks Targeting Black Political and Community Leaders.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

BACKGROUND

Over the past several months, targeted harassment of Black elected officials and community leaders in the Bay Area has increased at an alarming rate, far beyond the already-unacceptable status quo ante. On January 16, 2023 (MLK Day), Oakland City Councilmember Carroll Fife posted a series of recordings on Twitter from violent and hateful threats she had received, reporting that their incidence had accelerated sharply.¹ In an interview with KQED, Fife stated that her personal vehicle had also been targeted, and added: "I'm asking folks to stand with me because what's happening is unacceptable."²

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Taplin Council District 2 510-981-7120

Attachments:

1: Resolution

¹ https://twitter.com/carroll_fife/status/1615107617873088517

² Lagos, M. (2023, Jan. 17). "It's Gotten Worse": Oakland City Council Member Carroll Fife Faces Racist, Violent Threats. *KQED*. Retrieved from <https://www.kqed.org/news/11938303/its-gotten-worse-oakland-city-council-member-carroll-fife-faces-racist-violent-threats>

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING A PATTERN OF ATTACKS TARGETING BLACK
POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

WHEREAS, over the last few weeks there has been an alarming increase in the frequency, tenor, and danger of politically motivated attacks on Black women in leadership, including Oakland City Councilmember Carroll Fife and community leader Cat Brooks; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley stands with Councilmember Fife, Cat Brooks, and all who have been targeted by this rhetoric and stands against anti-Blackness and misogyny; and

WHEREAS, in an environment where three mass shootings occurred in California over three consecutive days in January 2023, and politically motivated violence is increasingly becoming the norm, ongoing attacks targeting Oakland political and community leaders must be stopped.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City of Berkeley calls for an immediate end to rhetoric that is leading to harassment and threats on democratically elected representatives and community leaders and commit to stepping up and speaking out when we see the scapegoating of Black women and women of color in leadership positions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley calls on business leaders, civil rights groups and advocates connected to any of these individuals perpetrating this misleading, politically motivated and increasingly dangerous rhetoric, to join us in publicly condemning these dangerous and shameful personal attacks.