



CITY COUNCIL

Darryl Moore
Councilmember District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 23, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Darryl Moore

Subject: Recognition of May 25th, 2006 as “Ruby Harmon Day”

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council adopt a resolution to recognize May 25th, 2006 as “Ruby Harmon Day,” in honor of the wonderful life she has led over the past century.

BACKGROUND:

Ms. Ruby Harmon has always been praised by her friends, family and neighbors as “a strong, independent, sparkling woman who has brought joy, love and wisdom to all during her 100 years upon this earth.”

Ms. Harmon was born in Arcadia, Louisiana on May 25th, 1906. She can remember her great-grandfather’s description of how he was sold on an auction block in New Orleans and how her grandmother made wonderful teas and medicines, well-respected for her ability to heal. She can remember segregation and has lived through the incredible evolution that integration brought about. Ms. Ruby Harmon has experienced and contributed a great deal to the history of the last century and she should be honored as an incredible historic resource and the wonderful person that she is.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Darryl Moore, District Two

(510) 981-7120

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

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MAY 25TH, 2006 AS “RUBY HARMON DAY”

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ruby Harmon was born in Arcadia, Louisiana on May 25, 1906; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Harmon was born during a time of great change. She can remember stories of her great-grandfather being sold on a New Orleans’ auction block and can remember segregation and the immense social and political strife that her town experienced during integration; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Harmon moved to Southern California in 1943 and worked for Lockheed Aircraft for many years; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, at the age of 60, she married Bill Harmon and joined him in Berkeley, California; and

WHEREAS, while in Berkeley, she has lived a very active and giving life, being an active member of the Trinity Church, serving as a surrogate grandmother to neighborhood children, participating every year in an annual neighborhood block sale to help pay for a bus for the Lion’s Center for the Blind, and volunteering for the Lion’s Center, local schools and nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Harmon was also involved in larger efforts, such as being a member of the Black and White Club, trying to break the racial barriers of the time by getting together with other “Blacks” and “Whites” to get to know each other better; being involved in civil rights activities, including curating an exhibit of Civil Rights Cartoons; and initiating a book, profiling the lives of neighborhood people; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley designate May 25th, 2006 as “Ruby Harmon Day,” in recognition of the past century she has lived, brightening the lives of everyone who have had the fortunate to know her.