



PROCLAIMING JULY 26TH AS POSTAL HERITAGE DAY IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

- WHEREAS,** the United States Postal Service is a national treasure that traces its beginning to an act of the Second Continental Congress on July 26, 1775, which established the “United States Post Office” and named Benjamin Franklin as the first Postmaster General; and
- WHEREAS,** since its inception, the United States Postal Service has served the fundamental role of binding the Nation together with its universal service and has been integral in much of America’s economic, social and cultural development; and
- WHEREAS,** by connecting all Americans, urban and rural, with prompt, reliable and efficient services, the United States Postal Service provides living-wage jobs to millions of Americans, jobs that have historically lifted families into the middle class, and especially helped lead to the emergence of an African-American middle class; and
- WHEREAS,** post offices play a central civic role in communities, which is reflected in the beautiful architecture of many historic post offices and the artistic works that many contain, including Works Project Administration commissioned art honoring labor; and
- WHEREAS,** the historic Berkeley Main Post Office is such an example, which was built in the Italian Renaissance-revival style, houses New Deal-era art, and anchors a civic center in the heart of Downtown; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Berkeley highly values its cherished post offices and the valuable services provided, and has repeatedly stood with labor, preservationists, senior citizens and community groups to ensure the protection of these community assets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL that the Council hereby proclaims

July 26th as Postal Heritage Day

in the City of Berkeley in recognition of the United States Postal Service as an essential public asset that has served and continues to serve a vital role in the economic, civic and cultural enrichment of our communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley continues to oppose any and all efforts to dismantle and diminish the United States Postal Service so that all communities can continue to enjoy the universal service that binds us together.

Unanimously adopted by the Berkeley City Council on July 8, 2014