



## Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7  
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### CONSENT CALENDAR

February 9, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Proclamation Honoring Frances Townes Day

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Proclamation honoring February 13<sup>th</sup> as Frances Townes Day.

### BACKGROUND

In 1967, Frances Townes moved with her husband Dr. Charles Townes to the City of Berkeley. Dr. Townes taught physics and ultimately developed the theory and application of the maser that earned him a Nobel Prize. Frances would also devote her own life to actively participating in public service and the obtainment of education. While at Berkeley, Mrs. Townes was an advocate for both education and female empowerment.

Mrs. Townes inspired the youth of Oakland with her Oakland Museum docent tours on Nature, which allowed an opportunity for Oakland inner-city children to explore and appreciate nature.

Her passion and leadership eventually lead to her being elected head of the docent council, as well as a representative at the national level.

Mrs. Townes also made lasting contributions to serving the homeless community. Her work and service helped lead the success of the Berkeley Ecumenical Chaplaincy to the Homeless. The Berkeley Ecumenical Chaplaincy to the Homeless brings together religious leaders of both different congregations and religions in order to insure that homeless individuals received both food and housing. When the organizations were between leaders, Mrs. Townes stepped into the leadership role in order to ensure the organization's continued service for the community.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

### CONTACT PERSON:

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Attachment:

1. Proclamation Honoring February 13<sup>th</sup> as Frances Townes Day

## **HONOR FEBRUARY 13<sup>th</sup> AS FRANCES TOWNES DAY**

- WHEREAS,** Frances Townes moved to Berkeley in 1967 with her husband, world-renowned physicist, Charles Townes; and,
- WHEREAS,** Her husband was a Nobel Prize winning Professor at the University of California, Frances also contributed to the education of others in teaching English as a second language at Columbia and organized career programs for faculty women at both MIT in Cambridge; and
- WHEREAS,** She worked tirelessly as an Oakland Museum docent, enriching the lives of others and eventually was elected head of the docent council and was even a representative at the national level; and,
- WHEREAS,** She continued to engage Oakland's inner-city children and get them excited about learning about nature for 20 years until she was 70 years old; and
- WHEREAS,** She honorably served as Board member of the University YMCA; and
- WHEREAS,** Mrs. Townes connected with BOSS Executive Director Boona Cheema, in order to help impoverished people who had extensive health and housing needs; and
- WHEREAS,** This would eventually lead to the formation of Berkeley Ecumenical Chaplaincy to the Homeless which would bring together representatives from separate faiths and congregations in an effort to help the homeless, with Mrs. Townes filling in at the leadership level when the organization was between chaplains, ensuring food and housing to the homeless.; and
- WHEREAS,** Frances Townes continues to advocate for a full-time, year-round, professionally staffed center for homeless youth; and
- WHEREAS,** Respected by academics and politicians, loved by young people living on the edge, admired by the many people who benefited from her work as an educator and an advocate for women; and
- WHEREAS,** Frances Townes has devoted her life to Public Service and will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on February 13<sup>th</sup>; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** That the City of Berkeley hereby declares the day of February 13<sup>th</sup> to be:

### **FRANCES TOWNES DAY**

We invite everyone to reflect on her notable accomplishments and outstanding services to California and the City of Berkeley.