



**IN HONOR OF MARY LEE WIDENER**

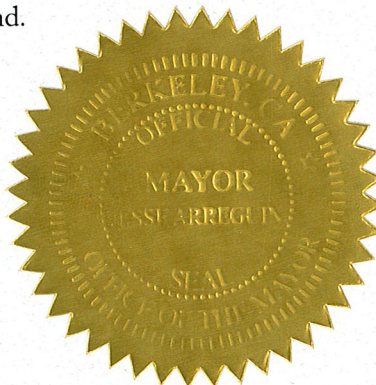
- WHEREAS,** Mary Lee Widener is a businesswoman and noble activist who has played an instrumental role in Berkeley for decades; and
- WHEREAS,** in the late 1960s through early 1980s, Widener was the campaign manager for Vice Mayor Carole Kennerly and her husband, Mayor Warren Widener – the first African Americans to hold these positions; and
- WHEREAS,** in the 1970s, Widener secured Comprehensive Employment and Training (CETA) federal funds for the Berkeley community, a federal act to train workers and provide jobs in public service; and
- WHEREAS,** Widener has served on the board of multiple companies and organizations, including the San Francisco Foundation, the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, the PMI Mortgage Insurance Company, the First American Corporation, the S. H. Cowell Foundation, Operation HOPE, the National Housing Conference, and Core Logic; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1974, Widener co-founded the Neighborhood Housing Services of America, initially starting as a \$250,000 pilot which expanded to an organization with over \$1.7 billion in assets in 2010; and
- WHEREAS,** more recently, Widener has worked on federal issues, including serving on the United States Senate Housing Task Force from 2019-2020; and
- WHEREAS,** Widener has received multiple recognitions for her decades of public service, including the National Housing Conference Person of the Year Award (2000), the National Interagency Community Investment’s Conference’s Community Investment Award (2008), and the Candace Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women (1989).

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Jesse Arreguin,** Mayor of the City of Berkeley, do hereby acknowledge and commemorate the contributions of

**MARY LEE WIDENER**

for her dedicated years of social justice work and role as a political and business leader whose contributions will never fail to be remembered by Berkeleyans and beyond.

Jesse Arreguin  
Mayor



June 1, 2021