



Cheryl Davila
Councilmember
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 15, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila and Councilmember Sophie Hahn

Subject: Support the Installation of a Plaque recognizing United States Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris in front of her childhood home in District 2.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting the installation of a plaque recognizing United States Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris in front of her childhood home in District 2, and refer to the City Manager to start the process.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding source could be a Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Fund to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds to support this process. The installation of Former State Assemblymember William Byron Rumford's Plaque was estimated at \$2,000.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

One of the City of Berkeley's Strategic Plan goals is to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity. Honoring one of our City's most important African American leaders by raising visibility supports this goal.

BACKGROUND

Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris childhood home is located on Bancroft Avenue in District 2.

Growing up in Berkeley and Oakland, Mrs. Harris had a view of the Civil Rights movement. She was inspired by Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, and Charles Hamilton Houston, and learned the kind of character it requires to stand up to the powerful, and was determined to spend her life advocating for those who could not defend themselves.

After earning an undergraduate degree from Howard University and a law degree from the University of California, Hastings, she began her career in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

In 2003, Mrs. Harris became the District Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco. Among her achievements as District Attorney, Mrs. Harris started a program that gives first-time drug offenders the chance to earn a high school diploma and find employment.

Having completed two terms as the District Attorney of San Francisco, Mrs. Harris was elected as the first African-American and first woman to serve as California's Attorney General. Over the course of her nearly two terms in office, Mrs. Harris won a \$25 billion settlement for California homeowners hit by the foreclosure crisis, defended California's landmark climate change law, protected the Affordable Care Act, and helped win marriage equality for all Californians.

In 2017, Mrs. Harris was sworn in as a United States Senator for California, the second African-American woman and first South Asian-American senator in history. She serves on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on the Budget.

In November 2020, Mrs. Harris was elected as Vice President of the United States.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No environmental implications.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

As the first Black person to be elected as Vice President of the United States, Mrs. Harris made incredibly valuable contributions to our state and our community. Honoring her through placement of an educational plaque in the City helps inspire future generations.

CONTACT PERSON

Cheryl Davila
Councilmember District 2
510.981.7120
cdavila@cityofberkeley.info

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

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

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA SUPPORTING THE INSTALLATION OF A PLAQUE RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT KAMALA HARRIS IN FRONT OF HER CHILDHOOD HOME IN DISTRICT 2

WHEREAS, Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris childhood home is located on Bancroft Avenue in District 2; and

WHEREAS, Growing up in Berkeley and Oakland, Mrs. Harris had a view of the Civil Rights movement. She was inspired by Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, and Charles Hamilton Houston, and learned the kind of character it requires to stand up to the powerful, and was determined to spend her life advocating for those who could not defend themselves; and

WHEREAS, After earning an undergraduate degree from Howard University and a law degree from the University of California, Hastings, she began her career in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, Mrs. Harris became the District Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco. Among her achievements as District Attorney, Mrs. Harris started a program that gives first-time drug offenders the chance to earn a high school diploma and find employment; and

WHEREAS, Having completed two terms as the District Attorney of San Francisco, Mrs. Harris was elected as the first African-American and first woman to serve as California's Attorney General. Over the course of her nearly two terms in office, Mrs. Harris won a \$25 billion settlement for California homeowners hit by the foreclosure crisis, defended California's landmark climate change law, protected the Affordable Care Act, and helped win marriage equality for all Californians; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, Mrs. Harris was sworn in as a United States Senator for California, the second African-American woman and first South Asian-American senator in history. She serves on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on the Budget; and

WHEREAS, In November 2020, Mrs. Harris was elected as Vice President of the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley supports the installation of a plaque recognizing United States Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris in front of her childhood home in District 2, and referral to the City Manager to start the process.

