

RESOLUTION NUMBER 5054

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERRIS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, RENAMING THE "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD," AWARDED BY THE PERRIS CITY COUNCIL ANNUALLY AT THE ROTARY CLUB GALA, TO THE "ALBERTA MABLE KEARNEY" AWARD.

WHEREAS, Alberta Mable Webb was born on December 22, 1920 in Benchley, Texas on the Matthew Allen Family homestead;

WHEREAS, Alberta was a migrant farm worker; picking cotton among other crops;

WHEREAS, Alberta graduated Valedictorian at Dunbar High School in Temple, Texas in 1939;

WHEREAS, Alberta met Clyde Burgin in Los Angeles, CA, and they married and had their first child, Gertrude Ann Burgin in Los Angeles, California; and Alberta, a divorcee met Charles W. Kearney and married on May 26, 1948 and had eight sons and two more daughters;

WHEREAS, Alberta & Charles moved their family to the Good Hope area in Perris Valley, under the care of Alberta's mother, Margaret Ann Hyman-Davis in 1957;

WHEREAS, being a concerned and involved parent in her children's public school education, Mrs. Kearney influenced the elementary school board decision to have HEADSTART in Perris; and she worked with the Perris School District Title I and Title IV Programs;

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mrs. Kearney participated in the UC Extension course, Action Alternative for Community Change, and used leadership skills learned to organize and chair the Perris Valley Human Relations Council;

WHEREAS, in 1975, Mrs. Kearney made herself a committee of ONE to welcome and receive the Vietnamese refugee families to Perris, California;

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kearney organized and chaired the Willa Mae Taylor Section of the National Council of Negro Women Perris;

WHEREAS, in 1987, Alberta donated land for the Flo Hyman International Peace Center in the City of Perris;

WHEREAS, in 1964, Alberta & Charles purchased and occupied the property at 316 East 7th Street;

WHEREAS, In 1970, Alberta contracted to demolish the 316 East 7th Street structure, which was condemned by the City, and later learned it had been used for worship in 1924 by the First Baptist Church, the City's first African-American congregation initiated by Dora Nelson, a freed slave born in Georgia and settled in Perris with her family;

WHEREAS, disheartened at the loss of the historical site, Alberta became determined to collect memorabilia highlighting the African-American experience in the Perris Valley;

WHEREAS, Alberta is the visionary and co-founder alongside Charles W. Kearney of the Dora Nelson African American Art and History Museum, donating the land for the Museum;

WHEREAS, The Dora Nelson African American Art and History Museum is the only repository created to preserve African American History between Los Angeles and San Diego;

WHEREAS, The Association of African American Museums, selected the Dora Nelson African American Art & History Museum in Perris as Host Museum and Riverside as Host City for its' 38th Annual Conference August 3-6, 2016; and

WHEREAS, In September 2016, the City of Perris suffered the loss of Perris cultural icon Alberta Mable Kearney, who lived in the Perris Valley for almost 60 years. During which time, she contributed to development of our City impacting our community in a significant way.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Perris as follows:

Section 1. The City hereby honors Alberta Mable Kearney for her many contributions to the City of Perris and its community, by renaming the "Citizen of the Year Award," awarded by Perris City Council at the Annual Rotary Club Gala to the "Alberta Mable Kearney Award."

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED THIS 25th Day of October 2016

Daryl R. Busch, Mayor of the City of Perris

ATTEST:

Nancy Salazar, City Clerk

State of California)
County of Riverside) §
City of Perris)

I, Nancy Salazar, City Clerk of the City of Perris, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 5054 was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of the City of Perris at a regular meeting thereof held the 25th day of October 2016, by the following vote.

AYES: BURKE, RABB, ROGERS, YARBROUGH, BUSCH

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Nancy Salazar, City Clerk