

**SOPHIE HAHN**

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CONSENT CALENDAR

September 15, 2020

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
From: Vice Mayor Sophie Hahn (Author), Councilmember Cheryl Davila (Co-Sponsor),
 Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (Co-Sponsor), and Mayor Jesse Arreguin (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Resolution Congratulating Kamala D. Harris on her
 Nomination for Vice President of the United States

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution congratulating Kamala Harris on her nomination for Vice President of the United States.

BACKGROUND

On August 19, 2020, United States Senator Kamala D. Harris of California accepted the nomination for Vice President of the United States. Sen. Harris is the first African American and Indian American woman to be nominated for national office by a major U.S. political party.

Kamala Harris was born in 1964 to two graduate students at the University of California, Berkeley -- a mother from India and a father from Jamaica. As Senator Harris said in the speech accepting her nomination for Vice President, she “got a stroller’s-eye view” of the civil rights movement of the 1960s as her parents marched for justice in the streets of Berkeley.

Kamala Harris grew up in West Berkeley and attended Thousand Oaks Elementary School in District 5. She was in the second class to be part of the [Berkeley school integration program](#) -- an innovative two-way busing plan designed to fully integrate Berkeley’s public schools. As Sen. Harris wrote in her 2019 memoir *The Truths We Hold*, “I only learned later that we were part of a national experiment in desegregation, with working-class black children from the flatlands being bused in one direction and wealthier white children from the Berkeley hills bused in the other.”

In a statement to [Berkeleyside](#), Sen. Harris credited her first grade teacher at Thousand Oaks, Mrs. Frances Wilson, with having a profound effect on her and being deeply committed to the diverse group of students in her class. She has written about her fond childhood memories of visiting the Rainbow Sign in Berkeley, where she met artists and activists, and spending days cleaning test tubes in Berkeley labs.

After moving away from Berkeley at the age of 12, Kamala Harris went on to graduate from Howard University and to earn a law degree from the University of California, Hastings. She has dedicated her career to public service, serving as a prosecutor in Alameda County, as the first African American and Indian American woman to be elected as San Francisco District Attorney, and as the first African American and Indian American woman to be elected California Attorney General.

In 2016, Kamala Harris was the first African American and Indian American woman to be elected to represent California in the U.S. Senate. Since taking office, Sen. Harris has served with distinction and has been a powerful voice for justice and accountability.

This resolution celebrates Kamala D. Harris, an African American and Indian American woman, daughter of immigrants, student of Berkeley Unified School District public schools, and accomplished public servant, and offers congratulations on her nomination for Vice President of the United States.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Vice Mayor Sophie Hahn, Council District 5, 510-682-5905 (Cell)

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.
CONGRATULATING KAMALA HARRIS ON HER NOMINATION
FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2020, Kamala Harris of California was nominated for Vice President of the United States;

WHEREAS, Kamala Harris is the first African American and Indian American woman to be nominated for national office by a major political party in the United States, and only the fourth woman to be chosen for a presidential ticket;

WHEREAS, Kamala Harris was born in 1964 to two graduate students at the University of California, Berkeley;

WHEREAS, Kamala Harris is the daughter of immigrants, a mother from India and a father from Jamaica;

WHEREAS, Kamala Harris “got a stroller’s-eye view” of the civil rights movement of the 1960s as her parents marched for justice in the streets of Berkeley;

WHEREAS, Kamala Harris grew up in West Berkeley and attended Thousand Oaks Elementary School in North Berkeley as part of the second class to go K-12 under Berkeley’s voluntary integration program in Berkeley public schools;

WHEREAS, Kamala Harris credits her first grade teacher, Mrs. Frances Wilson at Thousand Oaks Elementary School, with having a profound effect on her and being deeply committed to her diverse group of students;

WHEREAS, Kamala Harris lived in Berkeley until age 12, spending her childhood learning about activism, and spending time at The Rainbow Sign, a Black cultural center that served as a bridge across all borders—ethnic, national and political, on what is now Martin Luther King Jr Way;

WHEREAS, since graduating from law school, Kamala Harris has devoted her career to public service, as a prosecutor in the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office, as the first African American and Indian American woman to be elected as San Francisco District Attorney, and as the first African American and Indian American woman to be elected California Attorney General;

WHEREAS, in 2016, Kamala Harris was elected to serve as Senator from California, winning 64% of the vote, and becoming the second African American woman and first Indian American woman to be elected to serve in the United States Senate;

WHEREAS, since 2017, Kamala Harris has represented California with distinction in the United States Senate, introducing or cosponsoring legislation to defend the legal rights of refugees and immigrants, reform cash bail, and make lynching a federal crime;

WHEREAS, Kamala Harris serves on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and the Senate Judiciary Committee, where she has been a powerful voice for justice and accountability;

WHEREAS, Thousand Oaks Elementary School has honored Kamala Harris by including her in a mural among other extraordinary women Ruth Asawa, Dolores Huerta, Malala Yousafzai, Serena Williams, and Anne Frank; and

WHEREAS, Kamala Harris is an example to many, including in particular those who identify as women and girls and for those who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in Berkeley and throughout the United States and the world who are inspired by her example of dignified and powerful leadership;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley City Council congratulates, celebrates and expresses deep gratitude to Kamala Harris on the occasion of her nomination for the office of Vice President of the United States.