

RESOLUTION

Thomas Jefferson High School

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson High School was established in 1916 in South Los Angeles, becoming one of the earliest public high schools in the City's public education system; and

WHEREAS, for more than one hundred years, Thomas Jefferson High School has served generations of students and families, standing as a pillar of academic achievement, cultural expression, athletic excellence, and community pride; and

WHEREAS, during much of the twentieth century, Thomas Jefferson High School was one of the most important educational institutions serving predominantly African American students in Los Angeles, providing access to quality public education at a time when racial discrimination and housing segregation limited opportunities elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the school became a center of opportunity, excellence, and empowerment for African American youth, cultivating leaders in music, athletics, business, public service, and civic life, and serving as a source of dignity and pride within the broader South Los Angeles community; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson High School played a pivotal role in the historic Central Avenue jazz movement, nurturing extraordinary musical talent and contributing significantly to the cultural fabric of Los Angeles and the nation; and

WHEREAS, following the devastating 1933 Long Beach earthquake, the school was rebuilt in 1936 in the Streamline Moderne architectural style, symbolizing resilience and the City's commitment to public education; and

WHEREAS, the school's athletic programs, particularly its renowned track and field teams, achieved statewide distinction and brought honor to South Los Angeles through multiple championship titles; and

WHEREAS, throughout changing decades and evolving demographics, Thomas Jefferson High School has remained steadfast in its mission to educate, empower, and uplift students of all backgrounds, while embracing the diversity of the community it serves today; and

WHEREAS, celebrating over a century of service recognizes not only the institution itself, but also the educators, administrators, staff, alumni, families, and community members whose dedication and pride have sustained its legacy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Los Angeles hereby celebrates over one hundred years of excellence at Thomas Jefferson High School and recognizes its historic and ongoing importance in expanding educational opportunity and advancement for students of color and their families.

PRESENTED BY: 
CURREN D. PRICE, JR.
Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL


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