



Board of Library Trustees

CONSENT CALENDAR

June 9, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Board of Library Trustees

Submitted by: Jeff Scott, Director of Library Services, Acting as Secretary, Board of Library Trustees

Subject: Rename South Branch Library in Honor of Tarea Hall Pittman

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution renaming the South Branch Library in honor of Tarea Hall Pittman.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Fiscal impacts may include costs for signage.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

At the May 7, 2015 Board of Library Trustees Special Meeting, trustees unanimously approved # R15-097, a resolution recommending that City Council rename the South Branch Library in honor of Tarea Hall Pittman (Holcomb moved, Burton seconded, Vote: Ayes: Trustees Burton, Franklin, Holcomb, Moore and Novosel. Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstentions: None.)

BACKGROUND

Tarea Hall Pittman (1903-1991), a long-time South Berkeley resident, was an important African-American civil rights leader. She worked to abolish segregation in the Oakland Fire Department; was President of the CSACWC (California State Association of Colored Women's Clubs); organized branches of the National Negro Congress; for 45 years hosted the radio program "Negroes in the News" on KDIA radio station in Oakland, California; served in various important positions within the NAACP; fought for war industries to hire African American workers during World War II; and was a lobbyist for passage of Fair Employment legislation in California and other states. The South Branch is the library in Mrs. Pittman's long-time neighborhood. Mrs. Pittman and her husband Dr. William R. Pittman, the first African-American dentist in Berkeley, lived on Grove Street [now Martin Luther King Jr. Way] very close to the current library location.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

At the February 11, 2015 Board of Library Trustees (BOLT) meeting, the Library received Mr. Charles Austin's request to rename the South Branch Library after Ms. Tarea Hall Pittman. A letter was attached detailing her accomplishments as was a petition, with over 1,000 signatures, to change the name. As per the Library Facilities Naming Policy, the submitted information was reviewed by staff.

The procedure for naming or renaming a library facility are covered in The Berkeley City Council Rules of Procedure and Order. BOLT is the designated lead commission: overseeing, evaluating, and ultimately advising the Council on any naming or renaming application of a public facility, in this case library operated facilities. Additionally, the Library Facilities Naming Policy provides guidelines for renaming a branch library when:

- a. There is a strong consensus among library users and residents of the surrounding neighborhood to change the name of the library facility in question; and
- b. A proposed honoree reflects the spirit of the Berkeley Public Library's mission of free and equal access to information for all.

At the March 11, 2015 BOLT Regular meeting, the board heard public testimony from nine community members in support of the library renaming. At the April 22, 2015 BOLT Regular meeting, the library heard public testimony from twenty community members in support of the renaming. At the May 7th, 2015 BOLT Special Session meeting, the library heard public testimony from eight community members. BOLT then unanimously approved that the South Branch Library be renamed in honor of Tarea Hall-Pittman.

Mrs. Pittman's numerous contributions to Berkeley and local and national issues are a role model for Berkeley citizens. Community members and the Board of Library Trustees have determined that the renaming of the South Berkeley Library in her honor would be a fitting tribute.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Jeff Scott, Director of Library Services, 981-6108

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution
- 2: BOLT Resolution # R15-097

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

RENAME SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY IN HONOR OF TAREA HALL PITTMAN

WHEREAS, Tarea Hall Pittman (1903-1991), a long-time South Berkeley resident, was an important African-American civil rights leader; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Pittman was a leader of the NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Pitman was active in the National Negro Congress; the Negro Education Council; and several associations of Women's Clubs, all of which were then important forces in the African-American community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Pittman's long-running weekly radio program "Negroes in the News", on radio station KDIA, was an important source of positive news for and about the African-American community and informed her listeners about important civil rights issues and campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Pittman was a key leader who registered African-Americans to vote; led protests to persuade war industries to hire African Americans; pushed to integrate Bay Area communities and to desegregate the Oakland Fire Department, and led the NAACP's successful effort to pass the California Fair Employment Practices law; and

WHEREAS, South Branch is the library in Mrs. Pittman's long-time neighborhood. Mrs. Pittman and her husband Dr. William R. Pittman, the first African-American dentist in Berkeley, lived on Grove Street [now Martin Luther King Jr. Way] very close to the current library location; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2015 the Board of Library Trustees unanimously approved resolution # R15-097 recommending that City Council rename the South Branch Library in honor of Tarea Hall Pittman.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the South Branch Library shall be renamed in honor of Tarea Hall Pittman.

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION NO.: R15-097

**ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL TO RENAME
SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY IN HONOR OF TAREA HALL PITTMAN**

WHEREAS, Tarea Hall Pittman (1903-1991), a long-time South Berkeley resident, was an important African-American civil rights leader; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Pittman was a leader of the NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Pitman was active in the National Negro Congress; the Negro Education Council; and several associations of Women's Clubs, all of which were then important forces in the African-American community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Pittman's long-running weekly radio program "Negroes in the News", on radio station KDIA, was an important source of positive news for and about the African-American community and informed her listeners about important civil rights issues and campaigns; and


WHEREAS, Mrs. Pittman was a key leader who registered African-Americans to vote; led protests to persuade war industries to hire African Americans; pushed to integrate Bay Area communities and to desegregate the Oakland Fire Department, and led the NAACP's successful effort to pass the California Fair Employment Practices law; and

WHEREAS, South Branch is the library in Mrs. Pittman's long-time neighborhood. Mrs. Pittman and her husband Dr. William R. Pittman, the first African-American dentist in Berkeley, lived at 2930 Grove Street [now Martin Luther King Jr. Way] very close to the current library location; and


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley to recommend to City Council to rename the South Branch Library in honor of Tarea Hall Pittman and encourage the citizens of Berkeley to reflect on her contributions to Berkeley and her political activism on local and national issues; and

ADOPTED by the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley at a special meeting held on May 7, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES:	Trustees Burton, Franklin, Holcomb, Moore and Novosel
NOES:	none.
ABSENT:	none.
ABSTENTIONS:	none.



 Abigail Franklin, Chairperson



 Jeff Scott, Director of Library Services
 Serving as Secretary to the Board of Library Trustees