

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-010
OF THE
BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
IN HONOR OF THE BHS BLACK STUDIES DAY**

WHEREAS, the BHS African American Studies Department will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary during the year 2018, and it is appropriate at this time that the department be commended for excellent service to the students and citizens of the City of Berkeley, and be recognized as a leader in the fight for cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, the African American Studies Department emerged as result of student activism and determination, and served to radicalize the curriculum of the entire Berkeley High School, especially marginalized student populations; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that this is the only African American Studies Department in a public high school in the United States; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the leaders and risk takers, Richard D. Navies, Reverend Robert McKnight , Paul Griffith, Naomi Diouf, who recognized the effect of systematic racism on black children and dared to create a vehicle to self-identity and academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, the program grew to include a full range of courses including African American History
African American Literature, Drama, African Dance, Swahili, an oratory course titled, “Black
Gold, Black Soul, Black Dynamite” and a student paper, The Ujamaa; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the African American Studies Department is to empower students with a positive sense of identity, purpose, and direction; educate students and the greater community with an awareness and appreciation for the accomplishments, contributions, history, and culture of people of African Descent; encourage students to strive for excellence and embrace the attributes of the African American S.P.I.R.I.T.-Strength, Perseverance, Imagination, Responsibility, Integrity, Talent; and.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Berkeley Unified School District do proclaim December 15th, 2018 as **Black Studies Day**.

APPROVED, PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Berkeley Unified School District on this 14th day of November, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: —

NOES: —

ABSTENTIONS: —

Attested to:

Clerk of the Board of Trustees of the
Berkeley Unified School District