

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 289976

ADOPTED ON APR 20 1998

WHEREAS, Mr. James E. Brown, Sr. was born on April 28, 1894, in Pensacola, Florida, to Jonas and Mary Wingate-Brown; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown is the oldest known living member and patriarch of the Brown Family; and

WHEREAS, at an early age he left Pensacola, Florida to join the U.S. Navy and he enlisted in the "Coast Watch" which today is known as the "Coast Guard;" and

WHEREAS, after completing two years in the Coast Watch he transferred to the Navy in 1916 where he served for twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, while stationed in New York City in 1918 he met and married the former Beulah Lee Vaughn of Charleston, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, from this union, four children were born: Juanita M. Collier, James E. Brown Jr., Gaylord Brown, and Arline DeCosta Thompson; and

WHEREAS, his wife of sixty-seven years preceded him in death in 1985; and

WHEREAS, the couple attended Bethel A.M.E. Church for over sixty-five years, where he still attends and is recognized as the "Father of the Church;" and

WHEREAS, in 1920, he and his wife Beulah settled in San Diego, California and resided on State Street in downtown San Diego, and in 1921, they moved to Webster Avenue in San Diego where he still resides today; and

WHEREAS, while still in the military service, James purchased property in the 3100 block of Ocean View Boulevard where he had a building erected; and

WHEREAS, his intentions were to eventually open a grocery store, but his plans altered and he later sold that property to James P. Tate who then opened the first black-owned Mortuary in San Diego; and

WHEREAS, after retirement from the U.S. Navy in 1936 he opened a carry-out concession at the Navy Commissary located on Pacific Highway which he operated for a couple of years; and

WHEREAS, he later purchased property in Otay where he raised livestock, and later relocated in Campo where he expanded his livestock business selling to the general public and grocery stores; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, James and Beulah purchased the property in the 3100 block of Imperial Avenue where he built and opened the first black-owned grocery store.; and

WHEREAS, he and his wife operated their market for a number of years before retiring from the grocery business; and

WHEREAS, he continued to actively operate his Ranch in Campo until 1990 at age 96 when he finally decided to retire for the second time; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James E. Brown, Sr. will turn 104 years old on April 28, 1998; NOW,
THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of The City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the City of San Diego, hereby salutes Mr. James E. Brown, Sr., who has been blessed with a healthy, happy, lengthy life of 104 years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that April 28, 1998 be and is hereby proclaimed to be **"Mr. James E. Brown, Sr. Appreciation Day"** in The City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By Stuart H. Swett
Stuart H. Swett.
Deputy City Attorney

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