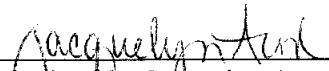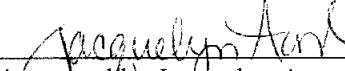# City of Carson
Report to Mayor and City Council

January 21, 2014
New Business Consent

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-002 ESTABLISHING JULY 18TH AS NELSON MANDELA DAY IN THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA

Submitted by Jacquelyn Acosta
Acting City Manager

Approved by Jacquelyn Acosta
Acting City Manager

I.   **SUMMARY**

This item is on the agenda at the request of Mayor Dear and Councilwoman Davis-Holmes.

Tonight the City Council is requested to support Resolution No. 14-002 establishing July 18th of every year as Nelson Mandela Day.

II.   **RECOMMENDATION**

WAIVE further reading and ADOPT Resolution No. 14-002, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING JULY 18TH OF EVERY YEAR AS NELSON MANDELA DAY IN THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA."

III. **ALTERNATIVES**

1. DECLINE to support Resolution No. 14-002.
2. TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV.   **BACKGROUND**

The following synopsis and information are extractions from the www.nelsonmandela.org and www.biography.com websites.

Nelson Mandela was born on July 18, 1918 in Mveso, Transkei, South Africa. He is one of the most well-known anti-apartheid activists in South Africa. He became actively involved in the anti-apartheid movement in his 20s and joined the African National Congress in 1942. For 20 years, he directed a campaign of peaceful, nonviolent defiance against the South African government and its racist policies. He was jailed in 1962 for leading the liberation movement against apartheid and for his stance on the human right to live in freedom. His release from prison in 1990 fed political debates in the country and contributed to South Africa's transition towards a multi-racial democracy. After his release, Nelson Mandela continued addressing racial issues in his country and supported reconciliation initiatives. In 1993, he and African President F. W. de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to dismantle the country's apartheid system. In 1994, Mandela was inaugurated as South African's first black president. He

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remained in office as president until 1999. In 2007, Mandela formed the Elders, an independent group of global leaders who offer their influence and experience to support peace building, help address major human suffering causes and promote shared interests of humanity. In 2009, Mandela's birthday (July 18th) was declared "Mandela Day" to promote global peace and celebrate his legacy. The day marks his contribution to peace through his active involvement in resolving conflicts, promoting human rights, international democracy and reconciliation, and in addressing racial issues. Nelson Mandela died at his home in Johannesburg on December 5, 2013, at age 95.

The overarching objective of Mandela Day is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better. It is a global observance but is not a public holiday. It is an international day of humanitarian action in celebration of Mandela's life and seeks to empower communities everywhere while adhering to the ethical framework of "service to one's fellow human." The message behind Mandela Day is that each individual has the ability and responsibility to impact positive change every day, particularly by doing work in their communities. It serves as a catalyst for each and every person to realize that they have the ability to change the world through action.

V.   **FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

VI.   **EXHIBITS**

1. Resolution No. 14-002. (pgs. 4-6)

Prepared by: <u>Charlotte Arrick, Council Field Representative</u>

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Public Works
Community Development	Community Services

Action taken by City Council
Date_____   Action_____
_____

RESOLUTION 14-002

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING
JULY 18TH OF EVERY YEAR AS NELSON MANDELA
DAY IN THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (July 18, 1918 – December 5, 2013) was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, and philanthropist who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, he was South Africa's first black president, and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election; and

WHEREAS, his government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid through tackling institutionalized racism, poverty and inequality, and fostering racial reconciliation. Politically an African nationalist and democratic socialist, he served as President of the African National Congress (ANC) from 1991 to 1997; and

WHEREAS, internationally, Mandela was Secretary General of the Non-Aligned Movement from 1998 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, Mandela attended the Fort Hare University and the University of Witwatersrand, where he studied law. Living in Johannesburg, he became involved in anti-colonial politics, joining the ANC and becoming a founding member of its Youth League; and

WHEREAS, after the South African National Party came to power in 1948, he rose to prominence in the ANC's 1952 Defiance Campaign and presided over the 1955 Congress of the People; and

WHEREAS, he was repeatedly arrested for rebellious activities and, with the ANC leadership, was unsuccessfully prosecuted in the Treason Trial from 1956 to 1961; and

WHEREAS, influenced by Marxism, he secretly joined the South African Communist Party (SACP) and sat on its Central Committee. Although initially committed to non-violent protest, in association with the SACP he co-founded the militant Umkhonto we Sizwe in 1961, leading a sabotage campaign against the apartheid government. In 1962, he was arrested, convicted of conspiracy to overthrow the state, and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Rivonia Trial; and

WHEREAS, Mandela served over 27 years in prison, initially on Robben Island, and later in Pollsmoor Prison and Victor Verster Prison. After an international campaign lobbied for his release, he was released in 1990, during a time of escalating civil strife; and

EXHIBIT NO. 01

WHEREAS, Mandela joined negotiations with President F. W. de Klerk to abolish apartheid and establish multiracial elections in 1994, in which he led the ANC to victory and became South Africa's first black president; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Government of National Unity, he invited several other political parties to join the cabinet. As agreed to during the negotiations to end apartheid in South Africa, he promulgated a new constitution; and

WHEREAS, he also created the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate past human rights abuses. While continuing the former government's liberal economic policy, his administration also introduced measures to encourage land reform, combat poverty, and expand healthcare services; and

WHEREAS, internationally, he acted as mediator between Libya and the United Kingdom in the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing trial, and oversaw military intervention in Lesotho; and

WHEREAS, Mandela became an elder statesman, focusing on charitable work in combating poverty and HIV/AIDS through the Nelson Mandela Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mandela was a controversial figure for much of his life. He was denounced as a communist terrorist by critics. He nevertheless gained international acclaim for his activism, having received more than 250 honors, including the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize and the US Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

WHEREAS, he is held in deep respect within South Africa, in Carson, California and all over the world as a leader of peace, freedom and equal rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Carson, California, that July 18th of every year is proclaimed as Nelson Mandela Day henceforth in the City of Carson, California.

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PASSED, APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this 21st day of January, 2014.

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Mayor Jim Dear

ATTEST:

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City Clerk Donesia L.Gause, CMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Attorney