

RESOLUTION NO. 12-114

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON,
CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING MAY 12 AS MERVYN DYMALLY
DAY IN HONOR OF HIS CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
PUBLIC SECTOR, AND THE COMMUNITIES HE REPRESENTED

WHEREAS, Dymally was born amid humble beginnings in Cedros, Trinidad, British West Indies, on May 12, 1926; and

WHEREAS, He received his secondary education at St. Benedict and Naparima Secondary School located in San Fernando, Trinidad and then became a reporter for a trade union publication. That led to his pursuit of collegiate journalism studies in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, He moved to the United States to study journalism at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. After a semester there, he moved to the Los Angeles area to attend Chapman University, and completed a Bachelor of Arts in education at California State University, Los Angeles in 1954; and

WHEREAS, Dymally soon became a teacher, a member of the Young Democratic Club, where he elected to represent at the state convention, and eventually met his mentor, the Honorable Augustus Hawkins; and

WHEREAS, Dymally was married to his loving wife, Alice Gueno Dymally for 44 years;

WHEREAS, Dymally has two wonderful children that he was most proud of; daughter Lynn and son Mark; and

WHEREAS, Dymally was a true role model for generations of Californians, not least because of his barrier-breaking legacy as one of the first persons of color to serve at the state and federal levels of our great nation; and

WHEREAS, Dymally was one of the first black men in the United States elected to statewide office since the days of Reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, while serving in the California State Legislature, he earned a Master's degree in government from California State University, Sacramento; and

WHEREAS, Dymally earned his doctorate in human behavior from United States International University in San Diego; and

WHEREAS, Dymally became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity in 1949; and

WHEREAS, Dymally served four years in the California State Assembly from 1963–1966 and was elected to two, four-year terms in the California State Senate from 1967–1975 where among other significant legislation, he fought for equal property rights for women; and

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WHEREAS, Dymally served the 41st Lieutenant Governor of the State of California from 1975–1979 where he served as Governor, and as President of the State Senate, and Regent and Trustee of the California State Universities and the University of California; and

WHEREAS, Dymally served the in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1981–1993, where he was chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and the most traveled member of the U.S. Foreign relations Committee; and

WHEREAS, Dymally returned to politics later to serve the 52nd California State Assembly District from 2002–2008 focusing on HIV/AIDS care for African Americans, Elder Care Abuse and the creation of the African American Political and Economic Institute; and

WHEREAS, Dymally completed his term in the Assembly and accepted an assignment with Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science where he established and built the Urban Health Institute and later became the President of the Central Neighborhood Health Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Dymally was an important leader. He was a thinker and a doer and never hesitated to take action when action was warranted. He spent his life breaking new ground and advancing the cause of civil rights and equality; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2012 Mervyn M. Dymally passed away in Los Angeles at the age of 86.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the city of Carson urges all residents to celebrate the life of Mervyn M. Dymally and all his contributions and efforts engaging in service, events, and actions representative by his legacy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that May 12 shall be observed as MERVYN M. DYMALLY DAY in the City of Carson, and the City of Carson honors his life's work and legacy to promote and fight for the well being of all of Californians.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 16th day of October, 2012.

Mayor Jim Dear

ATTEST:

City Clerk Donesia L. Gause, CMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

