



STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 14, 2022
TO: Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Devra Selenis, VP, Communications and Partnerships
SUBJ: REPEAL AND AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 09-02-0026,
 RECOGNIZING ROSA PARKS

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Attached Resolution.

RESULT OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approving the recommended action will allow SacRT staff to repeal and amend the Rosa Parks Day Resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

DISCUSSION

On February 23, 2009, the Board adopted Resolution 09-02-0026 recognizing and honoring Rosa Parks the first Monday following her birthday, February 4 each year. The amended Resolution will instead recognize and honor Rosa Parks on her actual birthday, February 4.

Rosa Parks Day is intended to honor Rosa Parks' courageous assertion of equal rights for African Americans, when she was arrested for refusing to give up her seat in a "whites only" section of a Montgomery, Alabama bus in violation of City ordinance and Alabama state law, on December 1, 1955. Her refusal to comply with Montgomery's segregation law was a dramatic act in opposition to institutional and systemic racism, and catalyzed a boycott led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., of the Montgomery bus system by tens of thousands of riders for over a year. The boycott led to the filing of a federal civil rights legal action based on Reconstruction-era statutes and the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. On November 13, 1956, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Montgomery's segregation law was unconstitutional, and on December 20, 1956, City officials were ordered to desegregate Montgomery's buses. Rosa Parks is widely considered the "Mother of the Freedom Movement" and the "First Lady of Civil Rights," because her refusal to surrender her seat inspired the boycott and the Civil Rights movement that ultimately resulted in the removal of numerous legal barriers against African Americans in this country.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-02-0004

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Regional Transit District on this date:

February 14, 2022

RECOGNIZING ROSA PARKS DAY

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, the first child of James and Leona (Edwards) McCauley; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, for courageously refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, and her stand for equal rights became legendary; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to comply with Montgomery's segregation law was the impetus for a boycott of Montgomery buses, led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., by approximately 42,000 African Americans for 381 days; and

WHEREAS, On November 13, 1956, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Montgomery's segregation law was unconstitutional and on December 20, 1956, Montgomery officials were ordered to desegregate buses; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks is honored as the "Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement," because her refusal to surrender her seat in compliance with Montgomery's segregation law inspired the civil rights movement, which has resulted in the breakdown of numerous legal barriers and the lessening of profound discrimination against African Americans in this country; and

WHEREAS, The courage and conviction of Rosa Parks laid the foundation for equal rights for all Americans and for the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was the first woman to join the Montgomery chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and was an active volunteer for the Montgomery Voters League; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks cofounded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in 1987 with Elaine Easton Steele to motivate and direct youth to achieve their highest potential through the "Pathways to Freedom" program; and

WHEREAS, during her life Rosa Parks received many awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor, the highest honor Congress can bestow upon a civilian, and the first International Freedom Conductor Award from the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, among many other awards and honors; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks dedicated her life to the cause of human rights and truly embodied the love of humanity and freedom, and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento Regional Transit District cultivates a workplace culture that promotes equality, respect and justice for all employees, and cherishes the insights it brings to our agency and the diverse communities we serve.

WHEREAS, in 2009 this Board adopted Resolution No. 09-02-0026 recognizing the first Monday after February 4 as Rosa Parks Day and the Board desires to re-commit SacRT to now recognize and celebrate February 4 each year as Rosa Parks Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

THAT, the Sacramento Regional Transit District Board of Directors does hereby recognize February 4, of each subsequent year, as Rosa Parks Day and urges the Sacramento region to pay homage to this courageous African American woman.

STEVE MILLER, Chair

A T T E S T:

HENRY LI, Secretary

By: _____
Tabetha Smith, Assistant Secretary