

REGIONAL TRANSIT ISSUE PAPER

Agenda Item No.	Board Meeting Date	Open/Closed Session	Information/Action Item	Issue Date
9	11/08/10	Open	Action	10/25/10

Subject: Recognition of RT's Season of Civil Rights

ISSUE

Whether or not to recognize December 1 through February 28 as the Sacramento Regional Transit District's Season of Civil Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution No. 10-11-____, Recognizing the Sacramento Regional Transit District's Season of Civil Rights.

FISCAL IMPACT

None, as a result of this action.

DISCUSSION

The Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) is celebrating its 3rd annual Season of Civil Rights with a series of events during the months of December, January and February to build awareness about the significant role that transit played in the American Civil Rights Movement.

In preparation, RT invites students in grades 3 through 12, who attend a school within RT's service area, to participate in the annual "I Am the Dream and the Dream is Now" poetry contest. Submitted poems must be 10 lines or less and be original work. All entries are required to relate to the theme of transit and civil rights. Nine entries will be selected, three from each grade category: 3rd through 6th, 7th through 9th and 10th through 12th.

RT displays the winning poems on interior transit cards in each bus from December 1 through February 28 to commemorate RT's Season of Civil Rights. Winning poems are also on display at special events during the three-month campaign.

On December 1, in tribute to Rosa Parks, a seat on RT's entire bus fleet is reserved. This is the same day Ms. Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama.

RT sponsors and participates in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. March and Celebration event in January, and in February, Black History Month, RT sponsors and participates in the annual Black Expo event.

Staff requests that the Board adopt the attached resolution recognizing RT's Season of Civil Rights.

Approved:

Presented:

FINAL 11/1/10

General Manager/CEO

Senior Community and Government Affairs Officer

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RESOLUTION NO. 10-11-_____

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

November 8, 2010

**RECOGNIZING THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT'S
SEASON OF CIVIL RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, the Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) recognizes that Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to make room for a white passenger, and her stand for equal rights became legendary; and

WHEREAS, RT recognizes that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led a boycott of Montgomery buses, and approximately 42,000 African Americans refused to ride city bus lines for 381 days; and

WHEREAS, RT recognizes that 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, RT recognizes that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spearheaded the August 1963 March on Washington, which brought together more than 200,000 people and led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, since 1973, RT has provided bus service to the diverse communities of Sacramento; and

WHEREAS, RT maintains a strong commitment to equal opportunity in hiring and promoting at all employment levels, and

WHEREAS, since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month as an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Congress passed and President Ronald Reagan signed legislation declaring the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a national holiday to be celebrated on the third Monday in January; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, RT began the annual tradition of celebrating the "Season of Civil Rights – It All Started on a Bus," which is a three-month campaign from December 1 through February 28 to honor Rosa Parks and the American Civil Rights Movement, and to pay homage to the diverse communities in which RT serves; and

WHEREAS, RT will continue to collaborate with community partners to build awareness about the significant role that transit played in the American Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Sacramento Regional Transit District Board of Directors joined with the State of California to declare the first Monday following February 4, of each subsequent year, as Rosa Parks Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

THAT, to honor the contributions by Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the great Americans who contributed to the Civil Rights Movement in the United States of America, the Sacramento Regional Transit District Board of Directors hereby declares December 1 through February 28, of each year, as the RT Season of Civil Rights.

STEVE MILLER, Chair

A T T E S T:

MICHAEL R. WILEY, Secretary

By: _____
Cindy Brooks, Assistant Secretary