



**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM NO. F.5
10/10/2023**

SUBJECT: Support Local, State, and Federal Efforts to Exonerate the Port Chicago 50

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

STAFF: Tim Ogden, City Manager
Margaret Wimberly, City Clerk

TITLE/RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Mayor or designee to send a letter of support to the United States Navy regarding local, state, and federal efforts to exonerate the Port Chicago 50; and adopt a proclamation in support of local, state and federal efforts to exonerate the Port Chicago 50.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact with this item.

BACKGROUND

The intent of the exoneration request is to remove the unjust conviction of the Port Chicago 50 of mutiny for their refusal to return to the dangerous work of loading ammunition on vessels after the massive explosion on July 17, 1944, that killed 320 sailors, 202 of whom were African American. An appropriate remedy is the exoneration of the Port Chicago 50, a long overdue correction of history that will strengthen the rule of law.

The Contra Costa County Bar Association's Port Chicago Task Force, East Bay Black Employee Collective, Citizens for Historical Equity and PAAACT sent a letter to the United States Navy requesting support of United States Representative Mark DeSaulnier's Resolution, H.Con. Res 16, outlining legal justifications for exonerating the Port Chicago 50; and have drafted a letter of support of these findings for local, state, and federal agencies to express their support in solidarity.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Not Applicable



**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM NO. F.5
10/10/2023**

PREVIOUS ACTION

Previous Action by the City Council is included on Attachment 1.

DATE OF NOTICE

Not Applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

Not Applicable

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Previous Action
2. Resolution
3. Letter of Support
4. Proclamation