

COMMENDATION RESOLUTION



THIS RESOLUTION COMMENDS

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER “FEEL WELL–BLACK WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION INITIATIVE”

MAY 15, 2024

WHEREAS, the Booker T. Washington Community Service Center (BTWCSC) has been dedicated to serving families in San Francisco for over 100 years, providing ongoing support and services to its Black/African American families and individuals.

WHEREAS the goal of the “Fillmore, Feel Well – BTWCSC Black Wellness Initiative” is to enhance the overall health and well-being of Black individuals and families by improving access to health and social services, fostering community building through spiritual and cultural activities, and offering healing opportunities for those facing trauma, depression, addiction, and mental health challenges.

WHEREAS, through a unique partnership with Black-led anchor institutions and organizations in the Fillmore/Western Addition area, BTWCSC collaborates with Black health professionals and social service providers to combat anti-Black racism, reduce barriers to wellness opportunities, and bring back Black joy amidst multiple challenges facing the community.

WHEREAS BTWCSC aims to leverage its safe space beyond its physical walls, ensuring the regeneration and recovery of the Black community in San Francisco by progressively assisting participants in navigating social systems, promoting life skills, and building self-sufficient Black families.

WHEREAS, BTWCSC collaborates with Black/African American participants and culturally responsive healthcare providers to offer safe spaces, scientifically sound information, and wellness opportunities, including workshops and Black safe spaces designed to decrease isolation, offer cultural enrichment, and provide health education, substance use/abuse prevention, and violence prevention workshops.

WHEREAS BTWCSC also provides opportunities for spiritual and emotional enrichment through soul suppers, memorials, social events, field trips, and educational opportunities, creating sacred spaces for Black joy, grief, relief, nourishment, and healing, while maintaining community alliances and overseeing program management and outreach efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Behavioral Health Commission recognizes and commends the Booker T. Washington Community Service Center for its exceptional dedication and service in promoting Black health and wellness, and assisting families in San Francisco, in overcoming as they overcome many health and behavioral health challenges.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Behavioral Health Commission respectfully requests the Board of Supervisors and Mayor to officially commend the outstanding work and impact of the San Francisco Booker T. Washington Community Service Center.

Stephen Banuelos, BHC Co-Chair

Bahlam Javier Vigil, BHC Co-Chair