



City Council Staff Report

Agenda Item:	<u>F.1</u>
Date:	<u>July 18, 2023</u>
Department:	<u>Administration</u>

AGENDA TITLE: Resolution to Support Local, State, and Federal Efforts to Exonerate the Port Chicago

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 46-23 a Resolution to Support Local, State, and Federal Efforts to Exonerate the Port Chicago

BACKGROUND: At the Contra Costa Mayors Conference meeting on July 6, 2023, a call to action was presented asking the cities in Contra Costa to join in an effort to have the Port Chicago 50 exonerated. This effort is an undertaking of the Contra Costa Bar Association and other organizations including the East Bay Regional Parks District which will operate the regional park at the former Concord Naval Weapons Station which has been named “Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50.”

The intent of the exoneration request was to remove the unjust conviction of the Port Chicago 50 for 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. Those supporting the exoneration request believe that the proper remedy is the exoneration of the Port Chicago 50, a long overdue correction of history that will strengthen the rule of law in this nation.

Additional information is set forth in the attached Resolution. This item is being presented to allow the Orinda City Council to join others in advocating for the exoneration of the Port Chicago 50.

NEXT STEPS: If adopted, the Resolution will be shared with the agencies and organizations engaged in the matter and with the City’s Federal and State representatives.

FISCAL IMPACT: None as a result of this action.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Resolution 46-23 Supporting the Port Chicago 50

Respectfully Submitted by:
David Biggs
City Manager

Prepared By: Sheri Smith, City Clerk

Approved by:

David Biggs
David Biggs, City Manager 7/13/2023