

Oakland City Council Resolution

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 75250 c. m. s

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER IGNACIO DE LA FUENTE

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PUERTO RICO'S REQUEST TO DEFINE POLITICAL STATUS OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND TO AUTHORIZE A PLEBISCITE FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN PUERTO RICO TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION REGARDING THE ISLAND'S FUTURE

WHEREAS, 1898 Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States as a result of the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which formally ended the Spanish- American War, and

WHEREAS, in 1917 the Jones Act extended United States citizenship to the residents of Puerto Rico but did not provide them with voting representation in the U.S. Congress nor give them the right to vote for the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, since 1917 two hundred thousand U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico have served valiantly in every conflict in which our nation has fought in defense of democratic principles and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland City Council recognizes the many social, economic and political contributions the 3.8 million U-S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico make to conserve and enhance this nation's democratic values; and

WHEREAS, the State of California and the San Francisco Bay Area have significant Puerto Rican populations; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 the Legislature of Puerto Rico formally petitioned the U.S. Congress to respond to the democratic aspirations of the American citizens of Puerto Rico by means of a federally sanctioned plebiscite to be held no later than 1998; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 during the one-hundredth year anniversary of the arrival of U.S. troops on the coasts of Puerto Rico, there was no Congressional response to the Puerto Rico Legislature's petition; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland City Council recognizes that the time has come for the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico to have the opportunity to express themselves regarding their desire to attain full self-government within the context of a Congressionally authorized plebiscite; now therefore, be it RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council requests the U.S. Congress to pass, and the President to sign into law, legislation defining the political status options and authorize a plebiscite for U-S. citizens in Puerto Rico to make an informed decision regarding the island's future political status; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Clerk forwards a copy of this resolution, suitably inscribed, to the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States.

I certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed by the City Council of the City of Oakland, California on

September 28, 1999

Ceda Floyd

City Clerk and Clerk of the Council