



Office of Councilmember
Max Anderson, District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 6, 2005

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the
City Council

FROM: Councilmember Max Anderson
Councilmember Darryl Moore
Councilmember Gordon Wozniak

SUBJECT: Renaming Old City Hall

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution renaming Old City Hall in honor of Maudelle Shirek.

BACKGROUND:

The granddaughter of slaves, Maudelle Shirek moved from Arkansas to Berkeley at a time when California had no African-American legislators or elected officials. She served eight consecutive terms on the City Council representing District 3. Maudelle is known as an advocate for the elderly, organic foods and world peace and has always supported employees' rights to unionize.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Max Anderson 981-7130.

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

**RESOLUTION RENAMING OLD CITY HALL
IN HONOR OF MAUELLE SHIREK**

WHEREAS, Maudelle Shirek was elected to the Berkeley City Council at age 73 and served for 20 years, including serving as Vice Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Maudelle Shirek has led the fight against housing discrimination, has been active in anti-war movements since the 1960s, founded two senior centers, and helped organize the Bay Area movement to free Nelson Mandela from his South African prison cell; and

WHEREAS, Maudelle has distinguished herself as a champion of civil rights. She has received local, national and international recognition; and

WHEREAS, Maudelle is the woman who has defended the poor and elderly, personally cooking and delivering meals to senior shut-ins. She is the woman who has created drug rehabilitation programs, health clinics and a public nurse program; and

WHEREAS, Maudelle is the activist who was repeatedly arrested at protests over issues ranging from apartheid to the threatened closure of an AIDS ward; and

WHEREAS, Maudelle has long-defended the rights of workers and union activities and is a special advocate for cooperatives; and

WHEREAS, Maudelle is a passionate advocate for poor and oppressed people at home and abroad, and a vigorous voice for peace and justice. She has been the conscience of Berkeley for many years and has traveled the world speaking out for peace, social justice and causes for the disenfranchised; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley rename Old City Hall in honor of Maudelle Shirek and encourage the citizens of Berkeley to reflect on her contributions to Berkeley and her political activism on local, national and global issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is directed to post this Resolution on the City of Berkeley's website and that the City Clerk send copies of this Resolution to Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Assemblywoman Loni Hancock and Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson.