



City of Palo Alto
City Council Staff Report

(ID # 7816)

Report Type: Special Orders of the Day Meeting Date: 2/27/2017

Summary Title: Proclamation Honoring Caretha and Ken Coleman

Title: Proclamation of the Council of the City of Palo Alto Honoring Caretha and Ken Coleman

From: City Manager

Lead Department: City Clerk

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Proclamation Honoring Caretha and Ken Coleman



Proclamation

Honoring Caretha and Ken Coleman

WHEREAS, The City of Palo Alto is proud to honor Caretha and Ken Coleman, who have made tremendous contributions to the community with the goal of making the world a better place, helping others to succeed, while advocating for social justice, equity and progress; and

WHEREAS, Caretha and Ken Coleman were nominated for the 2016 Visionary of the Year Award and are advocates for creating opportunities for people of color and women in business, they provide education on biases in hiring practices, and have both contributed countless hours as mentors across the country to young black business professionals; and

WHEREAS, Caretha Coleman was the second black female to work as an executive in the technology industry in the early 1980s. She has served as Chairman of the Board at Dignity Health and board member of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, while also sitting on various non-profit boards including Board Chair of the East Palo Alto YMCA, Mid-Peninsula YMCA, the Center for Relationship Abuse Awareness, and Advisory Board for Facing History and Ourselves. She mentors young professionals and entrepreneurs across the county and has worked 14 years at her own consulting company; and

WHEREAS, Caretha Coleman was named an Outstanding Board Director by the *Silicon Valley Business Journal* in 2015, and one of the Bay Area's Most Influential Women by *the San Francisco Business Times* in 2015 and 2016. She is a recipient of the YMCA's Red Triangle Award, she received the Black Enterprise Trailblazer Award, and was named a Visionary Leader by the *SF Chronicle*; and

WHEREAS, Ken Coleman, who served as an Air Force officer, went on to hold many important roles such as management positions at Hewlett-Packard, Vice President for Product Development at Activision, fourteen years at Silicon Graphics in top executive management positions, founder and CEO of ITM Software, Chairman of Accelrys and was a special government advisor for international trade policies; and

WHEREAS, Ken Coleman has received numerous honors including being named as one of the top ten most influential African Americans in the San Francisco Bay Area, a Top 25 Black Executive in technology, the Ohio State University Distinguished Service Award, the National Alliance of Black School Educators Living Legend Award, the American Leadership Forum of Silicon Valley Exemplary Leader Award, the One Hundred Black Men of Silicon Valley Lifetime Achievement Award, and was inducted into the Silicon Valley Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, one of Caretha and Ken Coleman's most significant accomplishments is leading a capital fundraising campaign to raise \$15 million in order to build a YMCA in East Palo Alto.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, H. Gregory Scharff, Mayor of the City of Palo Alto, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim Caretha and Ken Coleman as community heroes and extend appreciation for their years of significant contributions, service and leadership.

Presented: February 27, 2017

H. Gregory Scharff
Mayor