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PROCLAMATION OF CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

Whereas Oak Park Elementary School District 97 and the Oak Park Public Library have entered into an agreement to relocate the thousands of artifacts from the district's Multicultural Center to the Dole Branch of the library during the 2016-17 school year; and

Whereas this agreement will provide the community with greater access to the center's valuable resources, while also helping the district effectively manage the projected increase in student enrollment at Julian Middle School over the next few years; and

Whereas, while the center will no longer be housed in its schools, the district will continue to support the success of this endeavor in its new location and encourage its stakeholders to utilize the collection; and

Whereas, the district will also continue to embrace the importance of multicultural education, and seek out opportunities to use its powerful messages and positive lessons to further promote student learning;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the District 97 Board of Education that it affirms its aforementioned commitment to multicultural education; and

Be It Further Resolved that, on behalf of the District 97 community, the Board expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the center and its coordinator, Lynn Allen, for the vital roles they have played in fostering critical conversations about topics such as race, ethnicity and diversity, and teaching people of all ages about the virtues of cultural sensitivity, tolerance, civic action and mutual respect;

Proclaimed on this 26th day of July 2016.