

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, Fifth District

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Press Release

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Community Leader Charles “Chuck” Robinson Honored in South Berkeley



Caption: Charles Robinson (left) listens as Supervisor Keith Carson (center) thanks him for his many years of dedicated service during a ceremony in South Berkeley on Saturday, March 15, 2014 (Credit: Hannah Greene).

Berkeley, CA—On Saturday, March 15, 2014, respected community leader and affordable housing rights advocate Charles “Chuck” Robinson was honored at a moving ceremony at the Byron Rumford Senior Plaza in South Berkeley.

Surrounded by his wife, sister, old friends and mentees, Mr. Robinson was extolled for his dedication to the cause of affordable housing and community empowerment in South Berkeley and the greater Bay Area. “His impact is as long as his shadow, which is very long,” said George Pearson, current Board President of the South Berkeley Neighborhood Development Corporation and a mentee of Mr. Robinson.

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson reminisced about being a product of South Berkeley and attending Progressive Baptist Church where he is still a member. “I remember the store and the pharmacy and the medical center that were in this neighborhood back in the day,” said Supervisor Carson.

“And I remember those meetings that took place to make sure there were equal rights for all members of the community,” remembered Supervisor Carson. “Chuck and Thelma Ferguson were an essential element of those efforts and paved the road for those of us in the next generation to follow in their footsteps.”

Mr. Robinson has lived in Berkeley since 1962 and has been active in numerous community roles, including as a Board member for the Cooperative Center Credit Union, Resources for Community Development, and the South Berkeley Neighborhood Development Corporation (SBCHDC), which built the Byron Rumford Senior Plaza affordable housing development in South Berkeley. Mr. Robinson has been a member of the SBCHDC Board since 1987 and served as its President of the Board until 2013.

Supervisor Carson and his Chief of Staff Rodney Brooks presented a commendation from the Board of Supervisors to Mr. Robinson for his efforts to provide better access to affordable housing and for his many years of dedicated public service to the residents of Berkeley, Alameda County and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Other speakers at the event included Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, Councilmember Darryl Moore, Councilmember Max Anderson and Councilmember Linda Maio.

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Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson represents the Fifth District, which includes Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, and parts of Oakland (North Oakland, Rockridge, Grand Lake, Fruitvale, and Dimond District neighborhoods). For more information about District 5 and Supervisor Keith Carson, please call (510) 272-6695 or visit <http://www.acgov.org/board/district5>