

## **Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, Fifth District**

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### **Press Release**

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## **Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson Statement on the Life of Nelson Mandela**

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson was an aide to former Congressman Ronald V. Dellums, author of the first anti-apartheid legislation in the United States. Supervisor Carson was instrumental in organizing the event welcoming Nelson Mandela to the Bay Area which took place at the Oakland Coliseum on June 30, 1990. Carson released the following statement on the passing of former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela:

“I am truly saddened by the passing of Nelson Mandela, the ‘World Citizen.’ I send my thoughts and prayers to his family and the people of South Africa. Today we celebrate what he taught us by example: to never give up on your principles, your goals, your vision. He taught us that one person or a small committed group can and will make a difference. He taught us about love, love of yourself, and love for your people that will affect everyone around you. I was transformed and the world was transformed by his strength, his ability to not be consumed by hate but to turn hate into love.

“Nelson Mandela taught us to turn every situation into a learning opportunity. While at Robben Island, he and other leaders of the African National Congress turned their site of incarceration into a place of learning, a university, a place that in fact gave fuel to the revolution in South Africa.

“Along with others in the United States, I was arrested fighting Apartheid, introduced local policies to divest from companies that were doing business in South Africa, and was a lead organizer for Nelson Mandela's first and only visit to the Bay Area in 1990. I had the opportunity to meet Nelson Mandela and in 1994, our office organized the largest and only celebration in the Bay Area when Nelson Mandela became the first Black President of South Africa. I will continue to be guided by the ideals for which Nelson Mandela fought and sacrificed. The world is a better place because Nelson Mandela lived!”

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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>*