



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: **FEBRUARY 27, 2025** ITEM: **9A**

SUBJECT: **Presentation of Black History Month Proclamation by Community Affairs Committee**

DATE: February 21, 2025

FROM: Michele Richards, CEO

PRESENTATION BY: Directors Rubalcava-Garcia and Jackson – Community Affairs Committee

Information Item

BACKGROUND

At the January 2025 Board of Directors meeting, the Community Affairs Committee shared its plans to continue presenting proclamations for each monthly cultural celebration during 2025, focusing on a prominent member of that cultural community.

In recognition of Black History Month, the Committee will present a proclamation to Connie Jene Jones.

Ms. Jones will be honored for her work in supporting the needs of the working poor in Santa Ana since 1970. Starting as a teenager working side-by-side with her grandmother, Annie Mae Tripp, Ms. Jones began ladling soup out of her grandmother's garage to a dozen homeless men in their area. Their efforts soon expanded to create the Southwest Community Center which Ms. Jones operated until her retirement in 2019.

Now managed by the Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAPOC), the Southwest Community Center provides meals, rental and utility assistance, free tax services, financial empowerment, youth engagement and employment support. Ms. Jones serves on the CAPOC Board of Directors where she continues to advocate for the poor.