



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR
February 28, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington and Sophie Hahn
Subject: Proclamation Recognizing the Japanese Internment Day of Remembrance

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a proclamation acknowledging a day of remembrance for Japanese American internment, and recognize the history of Japanese internment in our country, as well as the rich history of the Japanese people within the City of Berkeley.

BACKGROUND:

On February 19, 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the now infamous Executive Order 9066 which established the internment of Japanese Americans all across the western United States. Conversely on February 19, 1976 President Gerald R. Ford rescinded the Executive Order.

Before the Second World War the City of Berkeley had a thriving community of around 1,300 Japanese-American residents primarily in the southwest of the city. In this time of increasing animosity towards immigrants and those seen as different it is important to remember those persecuted and celebrate the contribution Berkeley's Japanese-American population has made.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Minimal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Consistent with Berkeley's Environmental Sustainability Goals and no negative impact.

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Attachment:

1. Draft Proclamation

Draft Proclamation

Whereas, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which set in motion the forced evacuation and incarceration of many thousands of loyal United States citizens solely by reason of their Japanese ancestry.

Whereas, That thousands of Japanese American citizens were wrongfully interned in American concentration camps without charge and without a fair hearing continues to trouble the conscience of this Nation. The internment of Japanese Americans should serve as a powerful reminder that in defending this Nation and its ideals, we must do so as faithfully in the courtrooms and the public squares of this country as upon the battlefields.

Whereas, In spite of the terrible ordeal of internment, Japanese Americans remained steadfastly loyal to the United States throughout World War II. Even as thousands lost their homes and their economic livelihoods, many thousands of young Japanese American men bravely took up arms and sacrificed their lives to defend this country. Although the National Government's fidelity to the ideals upon which it was founded lapsed during the war, the unshakeable faith of Japanese Americans in those same ideals did not