



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

February 28, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Adopt a Resolution Recognizing the Japanese Internment Day of Remembrance

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution acknowledging a day of remembrance for those affected by Japanese American internment, and recognize the history of Japanese internment in our country. We also recognize the rich history and profound contributions of the Japanese community 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 Conversely, on February 19, 1976 President Gerald R. Ford rescinded the Executive Order.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 within a vibrant community containing its own newspaper as well as other staples of a functioning community.

In this time of increasing animosity towards immigrants and those perceived as “other”, 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.

CONTACT PERSON:

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Attachment:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RECOGNIZING THE JAPANESE INTERNMENT DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

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; and

WHEREAS, 34 years after the executive order was signed President Gerald R. Ford rescinded the Executive Order on February 19, 1976; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Ford stated “we have learned from the tragedy of that long-ago experience forever to treasure liberty and justice for each individual American, and resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated”; and

WHEREAS, 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 defending this Nation and its ideals must take place as faithfully in the courtrooms and the public squares of this country as upon the battlefields; and

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 people 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; and

WHEREAS, Japanese-Americans account for an integral part of the fabric of America as well as the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, 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 within a vibrant community containing its own newspaper as well as other staples of a functioning community.

NOW THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley shall adopt a day of remembrance for those who were victims of internment in this country in addition to a day of recognition of the Japanese history in our city.