File No. 150764

Committee Item No. _____ Board Item No. _____72___

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: _____ Board of Supervisors Meeting

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Date:	July 21, 2015	_

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FILE NO. 150764

RESOLUTION NO.

[Urging the Establishment of a Memorial for "Comfort Women"]

Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to establish a memorial for "Comfort Women."

WHEREAS, According to most international historians, the term "comfort women" euphemistically refers to an estimated 200,000 women and young girls who were kidnapped and forced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese Army during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II; and

WHEREAS, During the 15 years of invasion and occupation of Asian countries, unspeakable and well-documented war-crimes, including mass rape, wholesale massacres, heinous torture, and other atrocities, were committed by the Japanese Imperial Army throughout the occupied countries and colonies; and

WHEREAS, Of the few top Japanese military leaders who were investigated and convicted as war criminals in the postwar War Crime Tribunals in Tokyo, Nanjing, Manila, Yokohama, and Khabarovsk, many escaped prosecution; and

WHEREAS, In 2001 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 842-01, urging the government of Japan, on the 50th anniversary of the US-Japan Peace Treaty, to fully acknowledge and apologize for Japan's wartime atrocities and provide just compensation for the surviving victims of its aggression; and

WHEREAS, In 2007 the U.S. House of Representatives passed Rep. Mike Honda's bipartisan House Resolution 121, which also called on the Government of Japan to formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery; and

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WHEREAS, In 2013, the San Francisco Board passed Resolution No. 218-13 condemning Japan's denial of its system of sexual enslavement during World War II and calling for justice for "comfort women"; and

WHEREAS, The year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II (1941-1945) and the Pacific War (1931-1945) and the defeat of Japanese imperialism and militarism by the Allies; and

WHEREAS, Several cities in the U.S., including, Glendale and Rohnert Park, CA; Long Island, NY; Palisades Park and Union City, NJ; Fairfax, VA; and Michigan City, MI have already erected memorials to help remember the "comfort women" during Japanese occupation in the Pacific War; and

WHEREAS, Today, human trafficking of women and girls is a form of modern day slavery with 20 million victims worldwide, including an estimated 1.5 million victims in North America alone, forced to perform labor and sexual acts; and human trafficking is a marketdriven criminal industry based on the principles of supply and demand, and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is not immune to the problem, and has been considered a destination for human trafficking due to its ports, airports, industry, and rising immigrant populations; and

WHEREAS, Leaders of the Japanese American community have worked closely with the broader Asian Pacific Islander community in the past decades to strengthen relationships and build trust, understanding, and community for civil rights and social justice; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is a city of immigrants and their descendants, many of whom have ancestral ties to Asian and Pacific Islander nations and have direct or indirect experience with Japan's past system of sexual enslavement; and

WHEREAS, A growing coalition of immigrant communities, women's organizations, and human rights groups have organized to establish a memorial for "comfort women" and the

Supervisors Mar; Kim, Cohen, Christensen, Yee, Farrell, Campos, Avalos BOARD OF SUPERVISORS millions of victims of the Japanese military in San Francisco to ensure that the plight and suffering of these girls and women will never be forgotten or erased from history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That appropriate City and County agencies will work with the community organizations to design and establish the memorial; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco during the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II expresses its strong support of creating a memorial in memory of those girls and women who suffered immeasurable pain and humiliation as sex slaves and as a sacred place for remembrance, reflection, remorsefulness, and atonement for generations to come.

Supervisors Mar; Kim, Cohen, Christensen, Yee, Farrell, Campos, Avalos BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Introduction Form

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By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

; Time stamp

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):	or meeting date
1. For reference to Committee:	
An ordinance, resolution, motion, or charter amendment.	
2. Request for next printed agenda without reference to Committee.	
3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee:	
4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor	inquires"
5. City Attorney request.	
6. Call File No. from Committee.	
7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).	•
8. Substitute Legislation File No.	
9. Request for Closed Session (attach written motion).	
10. Board to Sit as A Committee of the Whole.	
11. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on	
Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the	following:
	Commission
Planning Commission Building Inspection Com-	nmission
Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a diffe	erent form.
Sponsor(s): -1 < 1/1	
Mar, Cohen, Christensen, Yee, Farrell, Campos / AVALOS	
Subject:	
Resolution Urging the Establishment of a Memorial for "Comfort Women" in San Francis	co
The text is listed below or attached:	
Please see attached document.	
Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:	ND
	- Y

For Clerk's Use Only: