

1 [Commemorating 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Repeal of 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act]

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3 **Resolution commemorating December 17, 2008 as the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the repeal of**  
4 **the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, which was the first significant restriction on free**  
5 **immigration in United States history.**  
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7 WHEREAS, The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and subsequent versions represent  
8 one of the few, if not the only, times in which the United States enacted law with specific  
9 racial biases against a portion of its peoples, and,

10 WHEREAS, These people were specified to be of Chinese ancestry, and was later to  
11 include people of other specific races and ethnicity; and,

12 WHEREAS, The Chinese Exclusion Act resulted in decades of racial harassment,  
13 overtly hostile discrimination, violence, and even murder – all justified by the existence of the  
14 Chinese Exclusion Act and its related state laws against the Chinese; and,

15 WHEREAS, The overriding human consequence was the separation of families,  
16 results of which are still being felt by Chinese Americans to this day; and,

17 WHEREAS, The consequent legal injustice was the abrogation of civil rights of a  
18 particular group of American inhabitants, namely the Chinese of America, based solely on  
19 race; and

20 WHEREAS, The repeal marked a significant turning point and reversal of American  
21 civic philosophy and policy away from race-based tenets; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
23 commemorate December 17, 2008 as the anniversary of that significant day in American  
24 history leading toward a more inclusive and equitable United States.  
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