

1 [Liana Szeto Day - May 18, 2025]

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3 **Resolution commending Liana Szeto on the occasion of her retirement from Alice Fong**
4 **Yu Alternative School; and declaring May 18, 2025, as “Liana Szeto Day” in the City and**
5 **County of San Francisco.**
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7 WHEREAS, Liana Szeto has spent the past four decades dedicating her career to
8 inspiring, supporting, and educating thousands of students as a passionate teacher, leader,
9 and community builder in the San Francisco Unified School District; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1984, Ms. Szeto began her career as a kindergarten teacher,
11 specializing in both general education and foreign language instruction at San Francisco’s
12 West Portal Elementary School; and

13 WHEREAS, Since she began her career, Ms. Szeto has been a national pioneer for
14 dual-language instruction within public education, founding the country’s first public Chinese
15 immersion program hosted at West Portal Elementary School; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Szeto dreamed of one day opening a school entirely devoted to
17 Chinese immersion and was tenacious in her fight to make it a reality; and

18 WHEREAS, When Ms. Szeto, teachers, and parents were looking for sites and offered
19 several inadequate vacant sites by the school district, Ms. Szeto pledged to fight to make the
20 location of Alice Fong Yu Alternative School not only adequate, but the “best school in San
21 Francisco”; and

22 WHEREAS, Ms. Szeto held true to her words, becoming the founding principal of the
23 country’s first Chinese immersion public school, Alice Fong Yu Alternative School and leading
24 the school to great heights; and
25

1 WHEREAS, Ms. Szeto has spent the last 30 years serving as Principal of Alice Fong
2 Yu Alternative School where she has left a legacy of academic excellence and cultural
3 immersion, fostering a tight-knit community rooted in compassion, cultural understanding, and
4 academic curiosity; and

5 WHEREAS, Colleagues, families, and current and former students describe Ms. Szeto
6 as a kind, thoughtful, and devoted leader, who works tirelessly to ensure that every student,
7 educator, and parent feels seen, secure, and supported; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Szeto has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty in her
9 role as a principal and educator, curating and implementing a globally recognized cultural
10 exchange program in which 8th grade students, regardless of income or resources, are able to
11 participate in a two-week immersion program in China, attending local schools and living with
12 host families; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Szeto has received countless awards for her leadership and rigorous
14 curriculum, including the prestigious Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding Leadership from the
15 United States Department of Education; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Szeto's educational contributions extend beyond her work at Alice
17 Fong Yu Alternative School, as she has served as a consultant for both the Peace Corps and
18 Education Department at San Francisco State University, and as an educator trainer in
19 Chengdu, China; and

20 WHEREAS, Under Liana Szeto's leadership, Alice Fong Yu Alternative School has
21 become the national model for Chinese immersion programs across the United States,
22 receiving the National Blue Ribbon Award, the California Distinguished School Award, and
23 being named a California Gold Ribbon School; and

24 WHEREAS, Liana Szeto's retirement marks the end of an era for Alice Fong Yu
25 Alternative School, but her legacy of academic excellence, cultural immersion, and leadership

1 will live on in the lives of the thousands of students, educators, and families that she has
2 uplifted and inspired; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
4 commends, celebrates, and congratulates Liana Szeto on the occasion of her retirement; and,
5 be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
7 Francisco declares May 18, 2025, as “Liana Szeto Day” in the City and County of San
8 Francisco.