File No. <u>250431</u>

Committee Item No. \_\_\_\_\_ Board Item No. \_\_\_\_\_6

## COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: \_\_\_\_ Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date:

Date: April 29, 2025

## **Cmte Board**

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Prepared by:	Lisa Lew	Date:	April 25, 2025
Prepared by:		Date:	

**RESOLUTION NO.** 

1	[Transcontinental Chinese Railroad Workers Day - May 10, 2025]
2	
3	Resolution recognizing May 10, 2025, as Transcontinental Chinese Railroad Workers
4	Day in the City and County of San Francisco.
5	
6	WHEREAS, The nearly 2,000 mile Transcontinental Railroad, which shortened travel
7	time across the United States (U.S) from six months to one week, was completed on May 10,
8	1869, when the Central Pacific Railroad Company and the Union Pacific Railroad Company
9	linked railroad tracks with a golden spike at Promontory Summit, Utah; and
10	m six months to one week, was completed on May 10, 1869, when the Central Pacific
11	Railroad Company and the Union Pacific Railroad Company linked railroad tracks with a
12	golden spike at Promontory Summit, Utah; and
13	WHEREAS, On July 1, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Pacific
14	Railroad Act of 1862, which authorized the Central Pacific Railroad Company to build a
15	transcontinental railroad that would link the U.S. from east to west; and
16	WHEREAS, Work began in 1863, as the Central Pacific Railroad Company started to
17	build its tracks in Sacramento moving east and the Union Pacific Railroad Company started to
18	build westward from Council Bluffs, Iowa, where railroad lines were already operating from the
19	eastern part of the country; and
20	stern part of the country; and
21	WHEREAS, For six years, the workers of both companies toiled to lay down the rail
22	beds, tracks, and other necessary infrastructure; and
23	WHEREAS, Because of difficulties in recruiting a sufficient number of workers, nearly
24	12,000 Chinese immigrants were employed by the Central Pacific Railroad Company and
25	made up more than 80 percent of its workforce; and

1 WHEREAS, Chinese workers were given the most difficult, dangerous jobs and were 2 paid lower wages than other railroad workers and nearly 1,200 Chinese railroad workers died 3 from work accidents, avalanches, and explosions while working in the Sierra Nevada 4 Mountains; and 5 WHEREAS, Chinese workers, who once set a world record when they laid 10 miles of 6 track in one day, were thought of as indispensable by their foremen and were respected for 7 their work ethic and discipline; and 8 WHEREAS, In 1865, then California Governor Leland Stanford testified to U.S. 9 Congress, "Without these Chinese Railroad Workers it would be impossible to complete the 10 Western portion of this great national enterprise"; and 11 WHEREAS, In 2014, the U.S. Department of Labor inducted the Chinese railroad 12 workers into the Labor Hall of Honor, noting that they faced prejudice, low wages and social 13 isolation, but, in spite of these challenges, they courageously took a stand to organize for 14 fairer wages and safer working conditions; and 15 rking conditions; and 16 WHEREAS, The Chinese workers' fight against unfair labor practices set an example 17 for the millions of Asian Americans who came to the United States after them; and 18 WHEREAS, It is fitting that the early contributions of the Chinese railroad workers 19 continue to be remembered and honored by San Francisco every year in May during Asian 20 American Pacific Islander Heritage Month; now, therefore, be it 21 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes May 10, 2025, 22 as Transcontinental Chinese Railroad Workers Day in San Francisco. 23 24 25

## **Introduction Form**

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):  $\square$ 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)  $\square$ 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference) (Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)  $\square$ 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor 4. inquires..." 5. City Attorney Request Call File No.  $\square$ 6. from Committee. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion) 7. Substitute Legislation File No.  $\square$ 8. Reactivate File No. 9.  $\square$ Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on 10. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes): □ Small Business Commission □ Ethics Commission □ Youth Commission □ Building Inspection Commission □ Human Resources Department □ Planning Commission General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):  $\Box$  Yes  $\square$  No (Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.) Sponsor(s): Subject: Long Title or text listed: