

File No. 220153

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 36

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: _____

Date: _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: February 15, 2022

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- Grant Budget
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- Form 126 – Ethics Commission
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OTHER

- Community Members Proposed Resolution _____
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Prepared by: Lisa Lew

Date: February 11, 2022

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

1 [Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Signing of Executive Order 9066 - Day of
2 Remembrance - February 19, 2022]

3 **Resolution commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the signing of Executive Order**
4 **9066 and declaring February 19, 2022, as a Day of Remembrance; recognizing the need**
5 **for increased public awareness of the events surrounding the incarceration of**
6 **Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II; and recognizing the role the City**
7 **and County of San Francisco actively engaged in one of the most blatant acts of civil**
8 **and constitutional wrongs in our country’s history.**

9
10 WHEREAS, The Japanese Exclusion League of California was founded in San
11 Francisco and its successor organization, the California Joint Immigration Committee,
12 promoted fabricated and baseless accusations of espionage committed by Japanese
13 Americans following the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor; and

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco was home to the Western Defense Command, which
15 following the Pearl Harbor attack, produced a series of report findings including: “the
16 Japanese race is an enemy race and while many second and third generation Japanese born
17 on United States soil [...] have become ‘Americanized,’ the racial strains are undiluted;” and

18 WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed
19 Executive Order 9066 (EO 9066), which authorized the United States War Department to
20 forcibly remove and incarcerate over 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II
21 (WWII), two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens; and

22 WHEREAS, The Wartime Civil Control Administration, located in the Presidio of San
23 Francisco, issued specific instructions: “To All Persons of Japanese Ancestry” residing in San
24 Francisco to be “evacuated” by May 11, 1942; and

1 WHEREAS, Japanese American families only had a matter of days to close their
2 businesses, sell many of their significant assets and priceless cultural artifacts, leave
3 everything behind, and bring only what they could carry; and

4 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors were implicit in their support of
5 the incarceration of Japanese Americans and the implementation of the Civilian Exclusion
6 Orders; and

7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Department participated with the Federal
8 Bureau of Investigation in raiding the homes and businesses of Japanese Americans, the
9 arrest of Japanese American community leaders, and assisted in the round-up of over 5,000
10 Japanese Americans residing in San Francisco; and

11 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution banning
12 Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants from employment by the City and County of
13 San Francisco; and

14 WHEREAS, From April through June of 1942, all San Francisco City government and
15 law enforcement agencies assisted in the forced removal of all persons of Japanese ancestry
16 from San Francisco; and

17 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has never recognized its role and participation
18 in the forced evacuation of Japanese Americans from San Francisco, nor it has it apologized
19 or explored restitution of the civil and economic losses the Japanese American community
20 suffered due to their forced removal and incarceration; and

21 WHEREAS, Japantown community members requested a Resolution be introduced to
22 commemorate the 80th Anniversary of EO 9066 and recognizing the role the City and County
23 of San Francisco actively played in the forced removal and evacuation of Japanese
24 Americans, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 220153, which is
25 hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

1 WHEREAS, Japantown continues to reel from the effects of the pre- and post-WWII
2 policies created by the City and County of San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco commemorates the 80th
4 anniversary of EO 9066 and declares February 19, 2022, as a Day of Remembrance and
5 recognizes the need for increased public awareness of the events surrounding the
6 incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
8 Francisco recognizes that the Japanese American community was the only community to be
9 forced to leave San Francisco into concentration camps; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
11 Francisco recognizes and acknowledges the deep pain and suffering created by the role the
12 City played in perpetuating fear, hatred, and racist discrimination toward the Japanese
13 American community both pre- and post-WWII; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco hereby recognizes
15 its role and participation in the forced removal of Japanese Americans in San Francisco
16 during WWII and vows to ensure such acts will never be repeated again; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
18 Francisco acknowledges Japantown's request to formally commission a study to fully
19 document its role in actively supporting racist and systemic forms of oppression towards San
20 Francisco's Japanese American community; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
22 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to all city agencies and departments to ensure that
23 they recognize the direct role the City participated in the forced removal of the Japanese
24 American community from San Francisco.

25

February 4, 2022

Honorable Dean Preston
Supervisor-District 5
City and County of San Francisco
City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisor Preston:

On February 19, 2022, we will remember the 80th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the mass round-up and incarceration of all Japanese Americans on the West Coast. I would therefore like to respectfully request that a Resolution be introduced at the next Board of Supervisors meeting to acknowledge this important and significant day as well as for the first time the Board of Supervisors recognize their implicit support of EO 9066 and the hysteria surrounding the racism and hate toward the Japanese American community.

Less than 2% of the Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during WW II are alive today. Many of them are in their mid-late 90's, and they will have all passed in the not-so-distant future. It is vitally important that their stories and the atrocities they endured continue to be remembered and that these former internees know that the City recognizes the harm it caused.

RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 AND RECOGNIZE THE ROLE THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ONE OF THE MOST BLATANT ACTS OF CIVIL AND CONSTITUTIONAL WRONGS OF OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY

- Whereas the Japanese Exclusion League of California was founded in San Francisco and its successor organization, the California Joint Immigration Committee promoted fabricated and baseless accusations of espionage committed by Japanese Americans following the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor; and
 - Whereas San Francisco was home to the Western Defense Command, which following the Pearl Harbor attack produced a series of report findings including “the Japanese race is an enemy race and while many second and third generation Japanese born on United States soil...have become 'Americanized,' the racial strains are undiluted;” and
 - Whereas on February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 (EO 9066), which authorized the United States War Department to forcibly remove and incarcerate over 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, two-thirds of whom were US Citizens; and
- Whereas, the Wartime Civil Control Administration located in the Presidio of San Francisco issued specific instruction “to All Persons of Japanese Ancestry” residing in San Francisco to be “evacuated” by May 11, 1942; and

- Whereas Japanese American families only had a matter of days to close their businesses, sell many of their significant assets and priceless cultural artifacts, leave everything behind, and bring only what they could carry; and
- Whereas, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, were implicit in their support of the incarceration of Japanese Americans and the implementation of the Civilian Exclusion Orders and
- Whereas, the San Francisco Police Department participated with the FBI in raiding the homes and businesses of Japanese Americans; the arrest of Japanese American community leaders, and assisted in the round-up of over 5000 Japanese Americans residing in San Francisco; and
- Whereas the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution banning Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants from employment by the City and County of San Francisco; and
- Whereas, from April – June 1942, all San Francisco City government and law enforcement agencies assisted in the forced removal of all persons of Japanese ancestry from San Francisco, and
- Whereas the Board of Supervisors has never recognized its role in the forced evacuation of Japanese Americans from Japantown, and
- Whereas the Board of Supervisors recognizes the pain and suffering it caused the Japanese American community both pre and post WWII, and
- Whereas the City and County of San Francisco and Board of Supervisors has never explored restitution of the civil and economic losses, and
- Whereas Board of Supervisors recognizes that the Japanese American community is the only community to be forced to leave San Francisco into concentration camps, and
- Whereas Japantown continues to reel from the effects of the pre and post WWII policies created by the City and County of San Francisco, and therefore be it,

Resolved that San Francisco commemorates the 80th anniversary of EO 9066 and declares February 19, 2022, as a Day of Remembrance and recognizes the need for increased public awareness of the events surrounding the incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II; and be it,

Further resolved that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes and acknowledges the deep pain the past actions of the City caused to the Japanese American community, be it.

Further resolved that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes and acknowledges the role it played in perpetuating fear, hatred, and racist discrimination toward the Japanese American community both pre and post WWII,

Further resolved that this resolution be sent to other city agencies and departments to ensure that they recognize the direct role the City participated in the forced removal of the Japanese American community from San Francisco,

Further resolved that the City and County of San Francisco have never recognized, apologized, nor sought to consider any form of restitution for the Japanese American community for its role and participation in the forced removal during WWII to ensure that such acts will never be repeated again.

Further resolved that the City and County should formally commission a study to fully document its role in actively supporting racist and systemic forms of oppression towards San Francisco's Japanese American community.

Print Form

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 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 inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Chan, Preston

Subject:

Resolution Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Signing of Executive Order 9066

The text is listed:

Resolution Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Signing of Executive Order 9066 and Recognizing the Role the City and County of San Francisco Actively Engaged in One of the Most Blatant Acts of Civil and Constitutional Wrongs in Our Country's History

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: 

For Clerk's Use Only