

1 [Korean Chuseok Day - September 29, 2023]

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3 **Resolution recognizing September 29, 2023, as Korean Chuseok Day and honoring the**
4 **Korean Center, Inc. for its contributions to the Korean American community in the City**
5 **and County of San Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, Korean Chuseok Day, otherwise known as Korean Thanksgiving, is a
8 harvest festival celebrated at the autumn equinox of the Lunar Calendar and is one of the
9 most important and widely celebrated holidays in the Korean culture; and

10 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have contributed immeasurably to the culture and
11 history of this city, state, and country; and

12 WHEREAS, Korean Americans are the fifth largest Asian American ethnic group in the
13 United States, with a population of over 1.8 million and more than 500,000 in California alone;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In the San Francisco Bay Area, Korean Americans are the sixth largest
16 Asian population with approximately 90,000 residents; and

17 WHEREAS, San Francisco has been a principal port of entry for Korean immigrants
18 since the early 1900s and more recently since the repeal of restrictive immigration quotas in
19 1965; and

20 WHEREAS, San Francisco has been a center of political activism and cultural
21 importance for Korean Americans since the late 19th century; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1883, Bobingsa, the first Korean diplomatic delegation dispatched
23 to the United States, led by Prince Min Young-Ik, had San Francisco as its first destination
24 where the delegation stayed at the Palace Hotel located on 2 New Montgomery Street; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Korean National Association was founded in San Francisco,
2 functioning as a de facto government in exile for Koreans rendered stateless in 1910; the
3 Association's newspaper Shinhan Minbo provided knowledge and information to immigrants
4 even after Korea's liberation from Japan in 1945; and

5 WHEREAS, The Taedong Statue, located at Susan Bierman Park on the
6 Embarcadero, was donated in 1983 to the city of San Francisco by the government and
7 people of Korea to commemorate the centennial of diplomatic relations between Korea and
8 the United States and has since been continuously maintained by volunteers from the San
9 Francisco Korean Seniors Association (Korean American Senior Services, Inc.) for the past
10 23 years; and

11 WHEREAS, The first Korean church in the United States, the San Francisco Korean
12 United Methodist Church, was built at 1123 Powell Street in 1928; and

13 WHEREAS, The composer, Ahn Eak-tai, went to his first service at this church and
14 was then inspired to compose what would become the Korean national anthem, Aegukga; and

15 WHEREAS, Korean Chuseok Day, with its roots dating back over 2,000 years, has
16 been recognized as a Korean national holiday since 1949, and its celebration has spread
17 worldwide as Korean communities have flourished in various countries; and

18 WHEREAS, The Korean Center, Inc., a non-profit, has served as a hub for Korean
19 cultural, educational, and social services in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1974; and

20 WHEREAS, The Korean Center, Inc., established in 1974, has served as a cornerstone
21 of the Korean American community in San Francisco, providing vital services and programs
22 that have positively impacted the lives of countless individuals and families; and

23 WHEREAS, The Korean Center, Inc. has been a driving force in preserving and
24 promoting Korean culture and heritage in San Francisco, offering language classes, traditional
25 music and dance performances, art exhibitions, and cultural workshops that have deepened

1 the understanding and appreciation of Korean traditions among both Korean Americans and
2 the wider community; and

3 WHEREAS, The Korean Center, Inc. has actively advocated for the rights and welfare
4 of the Korean American community, addressing issues such as immigration policies,
5 healthcare access, language assistance, and educational equity, working towards creating a
6 more inclusive and equitable society for Korean Americans in San Francisco; and

7 WHEREAS, Since its founding nearly 50 years ago, the Korean Center, Inc. has helped
8 newly arrived Korean immigrants, Korean families, and Korean seniors realize their full
9 potential, build community, and share Korean culture in San Francisco; and

10 WHEREAS, The Korean American community's contributions are immeasurable
11 despite facing serious economic obstacles and social barriers; and

12 WHEREAS, Expressed the need for the recognition of Korean Chuseok Day to bring
13 attention to the continued needs of the underserved Korean American community as well as
14 the contributions of Korean culture to the diverse landscape and life of San Francisco; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, The City and County of San Francisco shall recognize September 29,
17 2023, which is the 15th day of the 8th month of the Lunar Calendar as Korean Chuseok Day;
18 and

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Annual Bay Area Korean Chuseok Festival held by
20 the Korean Center, Inc. in San Francisco is recognized as the city's official celebration of the
21 cultural day; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco expresses its
23 gratitude to the Korean Center, Inc. for its exceptional contributions to the Korean American
24 community, fostering cultural understanding, and promoting the well-being of Korean
25 immigrants and Korean Americans and their families in San Francisco.