

File No. 130945

Committee Item No. _____
Board Item No. 38

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee _____

Date _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date October 1, 2013

Cmte Board

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Motion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Resolution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ordinance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislative Digest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Budget Analyst Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislative Analyst Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Introduction Form (for hearings) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MOU |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grant Information Form |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grant Budget |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Contract/Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Award Letter |
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Completed by: Joy Lamug
Completed by: _____

Date September 26, 2013
Date _____

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 20 pages. The complete document is in the file.

1 [Endorsement of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy]

2
3 **Resolution endorsing the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability**
4 **Strategy (JCHESS).**

5
6 WHEREAS, For over 100 years, Japantown has been the cultural heart of San
7 Francisco's and the region's Japanese American and Japanese communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Japantown has endured multiple challenges to its survival over this last
9 century, including entrenched societal and political racism; the denial of citizenship to the Issei
10 (first generation immigrant) generation, which denied them a political voice; the 1913 and later
11 Alien Land Laws, which prevented the Issei from owning most property; the World War II
12 Internment, which forcibly removed and incarcerated 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry
13 in desolate concentration camps for the duration of the war; and the Redevelopment of the
14 Western Addition in the 1950s-1970s, which devastated the residential and commercial bases
15 of the Japantown and Fillmore communities; and

16 WHEREAS, There are only three Japantowns left in the United States (Los Angeles,
17 San Jose and San Francisco); and

18 WHEREAS, California Senate Bill 307 was passed in 2001, which recognized the
19 significance of the state's three remaining Japantowns and created the California Japantown
20 Preservation Pilot Project that provided grants to promote the preservation of Japantown
21 neighborhoods. The San Francisco Japantown community has also been recognized by the
22 federal Preserve America Program as a place that embodies a unique cultural heritage that
23 deserves preservation; and

24 WHEREAS, San Francisco's Japantown contains hundreds of culturally significant
25 buildings, businesses, and organizations and it hosts many cultural events and activities that

1 are important to the region's Japanese American and Japanese community. The community
2 has developed memorials to its cultural history, including the Three Japantowns Monument,
3 and created the Japantown History Walk to perpetuate and share its history and culture; and

4 WHEREAS, Japantown is a central and desirable location in San Francisco that will
5 continue to face substantial economic development pressure to change and grow; and

6 WHEREAS, The Japantown neighborhood has been the subject of various planning
7 efforts over the past fourteen years. In 1999, the Japantown Planning Preservation and
8 Development Task Force created the "Concepts for the Japantown Community Plan". This
9 Plan was never adopted by the City. In 2006, the City enacted a Japantown Special Use
10 District to help "maintain the cultural and historic integrity and neighborhood of Japantown".
11 From 2007-2009 the San Francisco Planning Department drafted a Better Neighborhoods
12 Plan ("BNP") for Japantown with community input, but the BNP was not adopted by the City
13 due to community concerns related to lack of focus on supporting culturally significant
14 businesses and resources as well as to the potential for adverse effects of new development
15 in the area, including the potential disruption, displacement and elimination of important
16 community-based businesses, organizations and activities; and

17 WHEREAS, From 2009-2013 the community facilitated a process that focused on
18 ascertaining and articulating the community's vision of its future and its preferred cultural and
19 economic strategies for achieving that vision; and

20 WHEREAS, This process involved dozens of community and stakeholder meetings
21 over this four-year period, during which the community identified the need to protect and
22 support Japantown's cultural heritage as the neighborhood's top priority; and

23 WHEREAS, The Japantown community, Planning Department staff, and the City's
24 historic preservation consultants worked together to develop a new methodology for analyzing
25 and recording both the tangible and intangible elements of cultural heritage, which can serve

1 as a precedent for other communities within and outside of San Francisco. This work resulted
2 in an inventory of over 300 important cultural resources, including buildings, businesses,
3 organizations and institutions, and cultural activities and events; and

4 WHEREAS, The Japantown community, Planning Department staff, staff of the Office
5 of Economic and Workforce Development, and the City's economic consultants created a
6 compendium of economic and other tools to help support cultural resources, which was the
7 first time such a toolkit had been created in San Francisco or anywhere else in the United
8 States; and

9 WHEREAS, The Japantown Cultural Resource and Economic Sustainability Strategy
10 (JCHESS) is the result of the process of identifying the community's concerns, the types of
11 cultural resources in the area, and the potential tools to address the concerns and to support
12 these resources; and

13 WHEREAS, The vision of the JCHESS is that Japantown will thrive as a culturally rich,
14 authentic, and economically vibrant neighborhood, which will serve as the cultural heart of the
15 Japanese and Japanese American communities for generations to come; and

16 WHEREAS, The goals of the JCHESS are to 1) secure Japantown's future as the
17 historical and cultural heart of Japanese and Japanese American Community of the Bay Area,
18 2) secure Japantown's future as a thriving commercial and retail district, 3) secure
19 Japantown's future as a home to residents and community-based institutions, and 4) secure
20 Japantown's future as a physically attractive and vibrant environment; and

21 WHEREAS, To provide context, the JCHESS captures the existing conditions in
22 Japantown, as relates to its land, buildings, organizations and institutions, businesses, culture,
23 and public realm; and

1 WHEREAS, The JCHESS lists twenty-three "Areas of Concern" identified by the
2 community as issues that have or could prevent the fulfillment of the vision of the JCHESS;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, To fulfill the goals, and address the Areas of Concern, the JCHESS
5 includes nineteen Recommendations, which are designed to encourage economic
6 development and re-investment in the buildings, businesses, organizations and institutions of
7 Japantown; and

8 WHEREAS, Some of these Recommendations include the ongoing implementation of
9 existing programs, while others are newly proposed and may require further review, such as
10 environmental review, by the Department prior to implementation; and

11 WHEREAS, Some of the strategies would be implemented primarily by the City, and
12 others primarily by the community; and

13 WHEREAS, The Recommendations fulfill the goals of the JCHESS and address the
14 community's identified Areas of Concern; and

15 WHEREAS, The JCHESS itself was vetted in over 30 community and stakeholder
16 meetings in the Spring of 2013 and public hearings at the Historic Preservation Commission
17 and Planning Commission in July of 2013; and

18 WHEREAS, The JCHESS has the written support of 22 community groups, including
19 multiple property owners, businesses and business associations, and community-based
20 organizations; and

21 WHEREAS, The Planning Department has determined that the JCHESS is not a
22 project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), per CEQA Guidelines
23 15060(c), and is thus not subject to environmental review; and
24
25

1 WHEREAS, The JCHESS has received the endorsement of the Historic Preservation
2 Commission and the Planning Commission through Resolutions 711 and 18965, respectively;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, All pertinent documents may be found in the files of the Department, as
5 the custodian of records, at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco; now, therefore, be
6 it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors endorses as City policy to support
8 Japantown as a culturally and economically vibrant community; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors endorses the Visions, Goals,
10 and Objectives of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy
11 (JCHESS) as City policy; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors endorses the
13 Recommendations of the JCHESS; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports initiation of legislation
15 to create the Japantown Neighborhood Commercial District which meets the goals and
16 objectives of the JCHESS; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports adoption of
18 Japantown Design Guidelines that meets the goals and objectives of the JCHESS; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that the Planning
20 Department, Department of Public Works, Recreation and Parks Department, the San
21 Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, and any other relevant agencies proactively work
22 together to review for possible implementation those recommendations of the JCHESS which
23 involve capital outlay for infrastructure projects, such as improvements to Peace Plaza and
24 Buchanan Mall; and, be it
25

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the Office of
2 Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) in using the Invest in Neighborhoods
3 initiative as the framework to deploy services and resources to Japantown; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recommends that OEWD reach
5 out to the property owners of the Japan Center Malls to discuss potential improvements to the
6 Malls; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recommends that SFTravel
8 help implement the JCHESS through the creation of a Cultural Heritage Program that would
9 include Japantown; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recommends that the San
11 Francisco County Transportation Authority and San Francisco Municipal Transportation
12 Agency design the Geary Bus Rapid Transit project in a timely manner that provides better
13 access to Japantown, and creates safer and more attractive pedestrian conditions for crossing
14 Geary Boulevard; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recommends that other City
16 agencies with jurisdiction and/or programs in Japantown implement those aspects of the
17 JCHESS which are in their purview; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recommends that the
19 community implement those aspects of the JCHESS which are in their purview.
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SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission

Resolution No. 711

HEARING DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

Project Name: Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHES)

Staff Contacts: Steve Wertheim, Citywide Policy & Analysis Planner
(415) 558-6612 | steve.wertheim@sfgov.org
Shelley Caltagirone, NW Preservation Planner
(415) 558-6625 | shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org

Reviewed By: Tim Frye, Preservation Coordinator
(415) 575-6822 | tim.frye@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Approval

1650 Mission St.
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415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE "JAPANTOWN CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY (JCHES)".

WHEREAS, For over 100 years, Japantown has been the cultural heart of San Francisco's and the region's Japanese American and Japanese communities; and

WHEREAS, Japantown has endured multiple challenges to its survival over this last century, including entrenched societal and political racism; the denial of citizenship to the Issei (first generation immigrant) generation, which denied them a political voice; the 1913 and later Alien Land Laws, which prevented the Issei from owning most property; the World War II Internment, which forcibly removed and incarcerated 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry in desolate concentration camps for the duration of the war; and the Redevelopment of the Western Addition in the 1950s-1970s, which devastated the residential and commercial bases of the Japantown and Fillmore communities; and

WHEREAS, There are only three Japantowns left in the United States (Los Angeles, San Jose and San Francisco); and

WHEREAS, California Senate Bill 307 was passed in 2001, which recognized the significance of the state's three remaining Japantowns and created the California Japantown Preservation Pilot Project that provided grants to promote the preservation of Japantown neighborhoods. The San Francisco Japantown community has also been recognized by the federal Preserve America Program as a place that embodies a unique cultural heritage that deserves preservation; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco's Japantown contains hundreds of culturally significant buildings, businesses, and organizations and it hosts many cultural events and activities that are important to the region's Japanese American and Japanese community. The community has developed memorials to its cultural history, including the Three Japantowns Monument, and created the Japantown History Walk to perpetuate and share its history and culture; and

WHEREAS, Japantown is a central and desirable location in San Francisco that will continue to face substantial economic development pressure to change and grow; and

WHEREAS, On December 7, 2011, the Historic Preservation Commission directed Planning Department staff to pursue local landmark designations representing social and cultural significance per National Register evaluation Criteria A (Events) and B (Persons) during its review and approval of the Landmark Designation Work Program for Fiscal Year 2011-2012, and the JCHESS aligns with this goal by encouraging local landmarking of eligible heritage resources in Japantown; and

WHEREAS, On December 19, 2012, the Historic Preservation Commission passed Resolution No. 0698 endorsing further exploration of programs to document, designate, and incentivize social and cultural heritage. This resolution recognized that any social and cultural heritage program requires strong support, development, and continued involvement by the community stakeholders that value and define the resources; it recognized that historical integrity and economic viability are issues that need to be further examined in the context of social and cultural heritage resources; it recognized that social and cultural heritage resources are often a series of networks of people and that they overlap to varying degrees and that, therefore, careful documentation and understanding of the evolution of community and how each group has contributed to the fabric is essential to the establishment of a social heritage program; and, it acknowledged that social and cultural heritage is a vast and important issue confronting the City's communities and recommended that any future social and cultural heritage program should be an educational effort and discussion across the entire City family; and

WHEREAS, The Japantown neighborhood has been the subject of various planning efforts over the past fourteen years. In 1999, the Japantown Planning Preservation and Development Task Force created the "Concepts for the Japantown Community Plan". This Plan was never adopted by the City. In 2006, the City enacted a Japantown Special Use District to help "maintain the cultural and historic integrity and neighborhood of Japantown". From 2007-2009 the San Francisco Planning Department drafted a Better Neighborhoods Plan ("BNP") for Japantown with community input, but the BNP was not adopted by the City due to community concerns related to lack of focus on supporting culturally significant businesses and resources as well as to the potential for adverse effects of new development in the area, including the potential disruption, displacement and elimination of important community-based businesses, organizations and activities; and

WHEREAS, From 2009-2013 the community facilitated a that focused on ascertaining and articulating the community's vision of its future and its preferred cultural and economic strategies for achieving that vision; and

WHEREAS, This process involved dozens of community and stakeholder meetings over this four-year period, during which the community identified the need to protect and support Japantown's cultural heritage as the neighborhood's top priority; and

WHEREAS, The Japantown community, Planning Department staff, and the City's historic preservation consultants worked together to develop a new methodology for analyzing and recording both the tangible and intangible elements of cultural heritage, which can serve as a precedent for other communities within and outside of San Francisco. This work resulted in an inventory of over 300

important cultural resources, including buildings, businesses, organizations and institutions, and cultural activities and events; and

WHEREAS, The Japantown community, Planning Department staff, staff of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and the City's economic consultants created a compendium of economic and other tools to help support cultural resources, which was the first time such a toolkit had been created in San Francisco or anywhere else in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Japantown Cultural Resource and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS) is the result of the process of identifying the community's concerns, the types of cultural resources in the area, and the potential tools to address the concerns and to support these resources; and

WHEREAS, The vision of the JCHESS is that Japantown will thrive as a culturally rich, authentic, and economically vibrant neighborhood, which will serve as the cultural heart of the Japanese and Japanese American communities for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, The goals of the JCHESS are to 1) secure Japantown's future as the historical and cultural heart of Japanese and Japanese American Community of the Bay Area, 2) secure Japantown's future as a thriving commercial and retail district, 3) secure Japantown's future as a home to residents and community-based institutions, and 4) secure Japantown's future as a physically attractive and vibrant environment; and

WHEREAS, To provide context, the JCHESS captures the existing conditions in Japantown, as relates to its land, buildings, organizations and institutions, businesses, culture, and public realm; and

WHEREAS, The JCHESS lists twenty-three "Areas of Concern" identified by the community as issues that have or could prevent the fulfillment of the vision of the JCHESS; and

WHEREAS, To fulfill the goals, and address the Areas of Concern, the JCHESS includes nineteen Recommendations, which are designed to encourage economic development and re-investment in the buildings, businesses, organizations and institutions of Japantown; and

WHEREAS, Some of these Recommendations include the ongoing implementation of existing programs, while others are newly proposed and may require further review, such as environmental review, by the Department prior to implementation; and

WHEREAS, Some of the strategies would be implemented primarily by the City, and others primarily by the community; and

WHEREAS, The Recommendations fulfill the goals of the JCHESS and address the community's identified Areas of Concern; and

WHEREAS, The JCHESS itself was vetted in over 30 community and stakeholder meetings in the Spring of 2013 and public hearings at the Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Commission in July of 2013; and

WHEREAS, The JCHESS has the written support of 22 community groups, including multiple property owners, businesses and business associations, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, The Planning Department has determined that the JCHESS is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), per CEQA Guidelines 15060(c), and is thus not subject to environmental review; and

WHEREAS, The Historic Preservation Commission has heard and considered the testimony presented to it at the public hearing and has further considered written materials and oral testimony presented on behalf of Department staff, the Japantown Organizing Committee, and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, All pertinent documents may be found in the files of the Department, as the custodian of records, at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission endorses as City policy to support Japantown as a culturally and economically vibrant community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission endorses the Vision, Goals, and Objectives of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS) as City policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission endorses the Recommendations of the JCHESS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission endorses the cultural heritage evaluation methodology developed by the community, Department staff, and the City's historic preservation consultants as a fair and rational means of analyzing and recording both the tangible and intangible elements of cultural heritage. In so doing, the Commission also adopts the definition of cultural heritage developed for the JCHESS as "those elements, both tangible and intangible, that help define the beliefs, customs and practices of a particular community. These elements are rooted in the community's history and/or are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community." In so doing, the Commission also promotes the use of the Japantown Social Heritage Resource Inventory by the community as a cultural heritage management tool; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission understands that the Japantown Social Heritage Resource Inventory is a living document requiring ongoing curation by its stakeholders and recommends that the Japantown community identify a responsible party to serve as custodians of the inventory; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission directs Planning Department staff to include the completion of inventory forms for the approximately 100 cultural heritage resources recommended by the City's historic preservation consultant for documentation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission directs Planning Department staff to work with the community in future cultural heritage resource management efforts,

including adding resources to the Japantown Social Heritage Resource Inventory, pursuing recognition for Japantown resources in SF Heritage's "Legacy Bars & Restaurants" program, or pursuing listing on local, state or national historic resource registers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission directs Planning Department staff to add the Japanese YWCA at 1830 Sutter Street, the Kinmon Gakuen Building at 2031 Bush Street, and Peace Plaza to its work program to explore the potential for designating the site as a Cultural Landscape in Article 10 of the Planning Code, and to work with the Recreation and Parks Department on this designation in association with improvements to Peace Plaza as envisioned in the JCHESS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission directs Planning Department staff to conduct a community clinic on the available historic preservation tools listed in the JCHESS in Fiscal Year 2013-14; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission directs Planning Department staff to disseminate the JCHESS to organizations within the San Jose and Los Angeles Japantowns, to the State Historic Preservation Office, to the Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation organization, and any other groups that may benefit from or wish to participate in the work of the JCHESS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission supports the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) in using the Invest in Neighborhoods initiative as the framework to deploy services and resources to Japantown; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission recommends that SFTravel help implement the JCHESS through the creation of a Cultural Heritage Program that would include Japantown; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission recommends that the community implement those aspects of the JCHESS which are in their purview.

I hereby certify that the Historic Preservation Commission ADOPTED the foregoing Resolution on September 18, 2013.

Jonas P. Ionin
Acting Commission Secretary

AYES: Hasz, Hyland, Johnck, Matsuda, Pearlman, Wolfram,

NAYS:

ABSENT: Johns

ADOPTED: September 18, 2013



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planning Commission Resolution No. 18965 HEARING DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

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Project Name: Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHES)

Staff Contacts: Steve Wertheim, Citywide Policy & Analysis Planner
(415) 558-6612 | steve.wertheim@sfgov.org
Shelley Caltagirone, NW Preservation Planner
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Reviewed By: Joshua Switzky, Acting Chief of Citywide Planning
(415) 575-6815 | joshua.switzky@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Approval

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE "JAPANTOWN CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY (JCHES)".

WHEREAS, For over 100 years, Japantown has been the cultural heart of San Francisco's and the region's Japanese American and Japanese communities; and

WHEREAS, Japantown has endured multiple challenges to its survival over this last century, including entrenched societal and political racism; the denial of citizenship to the Issei (first generation immigrant) generation, which denied them a political voice; the 1913 and later Alien Land Laws, which prevented the Issei from owning most property; the World War II Internment, which forcibly removed and incarcerated 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry in desolate concentration camps for the duration of the war; and the Redevelopment of the Western Addition in the 1950s-1970s, which devastated the residential and commercial bases of the Japantown and Fillmore communities; and

WHEREAS, There are only three Japantowns left in the United States (Los Angeles, San Jose and San Francisco); and

WHEREAS, California Senate Bill 307 was passed in 2001, which recognized the significance of the state's three remaining Japantowns and created the California Japantown Preservation Pilot Project that provided grants to promote the preservation of Japantown neighborhoods. The San Francisco Japantown community has also been recognized by the federal Preserve America Program as a place that embodies a unique cultural heritage that deserves preservation; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco's Japantown contains hundreds of culturally significant buildings, businesses, and organizations and it hosts many cultural events and activities that are important to the region's Japanese American and Japanese community. The community has developed memorials to its cultural history, including the Three Japantowns Monument, and created the Japantown History Walk to perpetuate and share its history and culture; and

WHEREAS, Japantown is a central and desirable location in San Francisco that will continue to face substantial economic development pressure to change and grow; and

WHEREAS, The Japantown neighborhood has been the subject of various planning efforts over the past fourteen years. In 1999, the Japantown Planning Preservation and Development Task Force created the "Concepts for the Japantown Community Plan". This Plan was never adopted by the City. In 2006, the City enacted a Japantown Special Use District to help "maintain the cultural and historic integrity and neighborhood of Japantown". From 2007-2009 the San Francisco Planning Department drafted a Better Neighborhoods Plan ("BNP") for Japantown with community input, but the BNP was not adopted by the City due to community concerns related to lack of focus on supporting culturally significant businesses and resources as well as to the potential for adverse effects of new development in the area, including the potential disruption, displacement and elimination of important community-based businesses, organizations and activities; and

WHEREAS, From 2009-2013 the community facilitated a process that focused on ascertaining and articulating the community's vision of its future and its preferred cultural and economic strategies for achieving that vision; and

WHEREAS, This process involved dozens of community and stakeholder meetings over this four-year period, during which the community identified the need to protect and support Japantown's cultural heritage as the neighborhood's top priority; and

WHEREAS, The Japantown community, Planning Department staff, and the City's historic preservation consultants worked together to develop a new methodology for analyzing and recording both the tangible and intangible elements of cultural heritage, which can serve as a precedent for other communities within and outside of San Francisco. This work resulted in an inventory of over 300 important cultural resources, including buildings, businesses, organizations and institutions, and cultural activities and events; and

WHEREAS, The Japantown community, Planning Department staff, staff of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and the City's economic consultants created a compendium of economic and other tools to help support cultural resources, which was the first time such a toolkit had been created in San Francisco or anywhere else in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Japantown Cultural Resource and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS) is the result of the process of identifying the community's concerns, the types of cultural resources in the area, and the potential tools to address the concerns and to support these resources; and

WHEREAS, The vision of the JCHESS is that Japantown will thrive as a culturally rich, authentic, and economically vibrant neighborhood, which will serve as the cultural heart of the Japanese and Japanese American communities for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, The goals of the JCHESS are to 1) secure Japantown's future as the historical and cultural heart of Japanese and Japanese American Community of the Bay Area, 2) secure Japantown's future as a thriving commercial and retail district, 3) secure Japantown's future as a home to residents and

community-based institutions, and 4) secure Japantown's future as a physically attractive and vibrant environment; and

WHEREAS, To provide context, the JCHESS captures the existing conditions in Japantown, as relates to its land, buildings, organizations and institutions, businesses, culture, and public realm; and

WHEREAS, The JCHESS lists twenty-three "Areas of Concern" identified by the community as issues that have or could prevent the fulfillment of the vision of the JCHESS; and

WHEREAS, To fulfill the goals, and address the Areas of Concern, the JCHESS includes nineteen Recommendations, which are designed to encourage economic development and re-investment in the buildings, businesses, organizations and institutions of Japantown; and

WHEREAS, Some of these Recommendations include the ongoing implementation of existing programs, while others are newly proposed and may require further review, such as environmental review, by the Department prior to implementation; and

WHEREAS, Some of the strategies would be implemented primarily by the City, and others primarily by the community; and

WHEREAS, The Recommendations fulfill the goals of the JCHESS and address the community's identified Areas of Concern; and

WHEREAS, The JCHESS itself was vetted in over 30 community and stakeholder meetings in the Spring of 2013 and public hearings at the Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Commission in July of 2013; and

WHEREAS, The JCHESS has the written support of 22 community groups, including multiple property owners, businesses and business associations, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, The Planning Department has determined that the JCHESS is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), per CEQA Guidelines 15060(c), and is thus not subject to environmental review; and

WHEREAS, The Planning Commission has heard and considered the testimony presented to it at the public hearing and has further considered written materials and oral testimony presented on behalf of Department staff, the Japantown Organizing Committee, and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, All pertinent documents may be found in the files of the Department, as the custodian of records, at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission endorses as City policy to support Japantown as a culturally and economically vibrant community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission endorses the Visions, Goals, and Objectives of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS) as City policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission endorses the Recommendations of the JCHESS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission directs Planning Department staff to propose possible legislation, and initiate review of any proposed legislation under the CEQA, to create the Japantown Neighborhood Commercial District as recommended in the JCHESS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission directs Planning Department staff to review and propose for possible adoption Japantown Design Guidelines which meets the goals and objectives of the JCHESS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission direct Planning Department staff, through its existing implementation activities, to proactively work with the Department of Public Works, the Recreation and Parks Department, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, and any other relevant agency to review for possible implementation those recommendations of the JCHESS which involve capital outlay for infrastructure projects, such as improvements to Peace Plaza and Buchanan Mall; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission supports the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) in using the Invest in Neighborhoods initiative as the framework to deploy services and resources to Japantown; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission recommends that OEWD reach out to the property owners of the Japan Center Malls to discuss potential improvements to the Malls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission recommends that SFTravel help implement the JCHESS through the creation of a Cultural Heritage Program that would include Japantown; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission recommends that the San Francisco County Transportation Authority and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency design the Geary Bus Rapid Transit project in a timely manner that provides better access to Japantown, and creates safer and more attractive pedestrian conditions for crossing Geary Boulevard; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the HPC review and implement those portions of JCHESS under their purview; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission recommends that other City agencies with jurisdiction and/or programs in Japantown review and implement those aspects of the JCHESS which are in their purview; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission recommends that the community implement those aspects of the JCHESS which are in their purview.

I hereby certify that the Planning Commission **ADOPTED** the foregoing Resolution on September 19, 2013.

Jonas P. Ionin
Acting Commission Secretary

AYES: Fong, Antonini, Borden, Hillis, Moore, Sugaya, Wu

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: September 19, 2013

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the 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 [] inquires"
- 5. City Attorney request.
- 6. Call File No. [] from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. []
- 9. Request for Closed Session (attach written motion).
- 10. Board to Sit as A Committee of the Whole.
- 11. Question(s) 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 a Imperative

Sponsor(s):

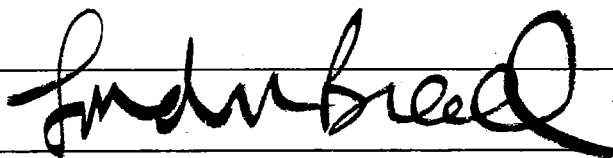
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Subject:

Endorsement of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS)

The text is listed below or attached:

Resolution endorsing the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS).

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: 

For Clerk's Use Only:



CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO JAPAN CENTER GARAGE CORPORATION

Board of Directors

John Noguchi
President

Emily Mitra
Vice President

John Henry
Treasurer

Kathryn Nelsen
Secretary

Hagen Choi
Member

Nancy Gribler
Member

Robert Hamaguchi
Member

Jerry Ono
Member

Floyd Trammell
Member

Monetta White
Member

August 15, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:52
AK

Dear Commissioners and Supervisors,

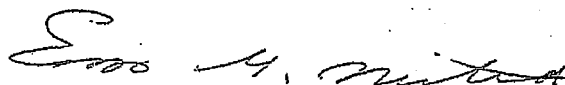
The Japan Center Garage Corporation (JCGC) is a non-profit community-based organization and, is the lessee of the Japan Center Garage. The mission of the corporation is to insure effective management of the City-owned garage and promote the economic development of Japantown and the Fillmore Jazz District.

The board of directors has followed the progress of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy ("JCHESS") and supports the vision and goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy. The JCGC recommends the commissions and Board of Supervisors approval of the JCHESS endorsement resolutions.

As members of the community, we support both the cultural and economic growth of Japantown and realize that a document such as this is one imperative step toward the holistic future of this historic neighborhood.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and encouragement for the future of Japantown and the Fillmore Jazz District.

Respectfully,


Emily Mitra
Vice President

cc: JCGC Board of Directors

1610 Geary Boulevard
Francisco, CA 94115
Tel (415) 567-4573
Fax (415) 567-1004

File #13245 B-11
COR
C. Rege



August 15, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:57
AK

Dear Commissioners and Supervisors,

The Japantown Merchants Association is a non-profit business organization with the mission to promote commerce for businesses and, in helping to make the City of San Francisco a destination for visitors. We are also in support of any economic development for the betterment of the business community.

We have been involved and followed the progress of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy ("JCHESS") and we support the vision and goals of JCHESS and we ask for your endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy.

We further support both the cultural and economic growth of Japantown and realize that a document such as this plan is an imperative step toward the holistic future of this historic neighborhood.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and encouragement for the future of Japantown and the Fillmore Jazz District.

Respectfully,

Richard Hashimoto
President

File # 130915 BJS-11
COTB
e Page



Japanese chamber of commerce of northern california

1875 South Grant Street, Suite 760, San Mateo, CA 94402 T (650) 522-8500 F (650) 522-8300
mail@jccnc.org www.jccnc.org

August 20, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:57
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Dear Commissioners and Supervisors,

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California (JCCNC) is a 501(c)6 non-profit which was founded in 1951 in Japantown San Francisco, the same year as the historic Treaty of Peace with Japan.

JCCNC has followed the development of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy ("JCHESS") and supports the vision and goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy. JCCNC recommends the commissions and Board of Supervisors approval of the JCHESS endorsement resolutions.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and encouragement for the future of Japantown.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroshi Tomita
President
Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California

File #133945 B23-11
COR
C RAE



ADMINISTRATION
2012 Pine Street
San Francisco, CA
94115
Tel: 415.202.7900
Fax: 415.921.1841
www.jcyc.org

August 20, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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Dear Commissioners and Supervisors,

The Japanese Community Youth Council ("JCYC") is a non-profit community-based organization serving the youth and families throughout the City and County of San Francisco.

JCYC has followed the development of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy ("JCHESS") and supports the vision and goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy. JCYC recommends the commissions and Board of Supervisors approval of the JCHESS endorsement resolutions.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and encouragement for the future of Japantown.

Respectfully,


Jon Osaki
Executive Director

File # 130915 B33-11
CJB
C. Page



August 20, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

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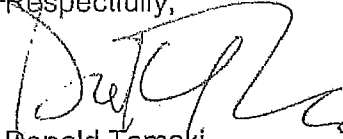
Dear Commissioners and Supervisors,

The San Francisco Japantown Foundation is a non-profit community-based organization. Since its formation in 2006, the Foundation has distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to support community, business, and cultural activities and festivals, which promotes Japantown and Japanese culture. Including the renovation of the Japanese Tea Garden, support of the Cherry Blossom Festival, cultural performances, and services to the youth and the elderly.

The Foundation has followed the development of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy ("JCHESS") and supports the vision and goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy. The Foundation recommends the commissions and Board of Supervisors approval of the JCHESS endorsement resolutions.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and encouragement for the future of Japantown.

Respectfully,


Donald Tamaki
President of the Board of Directors

Envisioning a Japantown that inspires respect for the past, embrace of the present, and a commitment to a place and a community that is culturally vibrant, prosperous, safe, inclusive, engaging, and attractive to residents and to visitors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Hatsuro Alzawa
- Robert E. Hamaguchi
- Harold Hashimoto
Nishimura Merchants Association
- Jack Hirose (in memoriam)
- Tomoe Horibuchi
- Keith Kamisugi
- Diane Matsuda
- Sandy Mori
Japantown Task Force Inc.
- June-ko Nakagawa
Japanese Chamber of Commerce of
Northern California
- Allen M. Okamoto
Sakura Matsuri Inc.
- Jerry Ono
Union Bank
- Jon Osaki
Japanese Community Youth
Council
- Donald K. Tamaki
Minami Tamaki, LLP

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization
Federal Tax ID: 33-1144757

THE SAN FRANCISCO
JAPANTOWN FOUNDATION
c/o Minami Tamaki LLP
360 Post Street, 8th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108-4903
415.830.4165
info@sfjapantownfoundation.org

japantownfoundation.org

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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2013 SEP 27 PM 3:57
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August 23, 2013

To: Historic Preservation Commission
Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors

c/o Steve Wertheim, San Francisco Planning Department

I write as President of The Sequoias-San Francisco Resident Association whose membership includes the 290 individuals who reside at The Sequoias, 1400 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 94109. We are proud that our home is within the boundaries of Japantown. Many of us have family or business ties with the community and all of us are concerned with its future.

Because of this, we are delighted to endorse JCHESS which articulates a comprehensive vision of the steps vital to preserving the cultural heritage of the community. As residents, we are well aware of the careful study which has produced a plan as comprehensive and constructive as JCHESS. For that reason, we respectfully urge the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission, the San Francisco Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors to take the necessary steps to approve and implement the recommendations so compellingly described in the JCHESS proposal.

Kathie Cheatham, President
The Sequoias-San Francisco Resident Association
KHeat4349@aol.com

File # 130945
Bbs-11
L013
C Page

 **JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE**
日本町の経済発展・計画・保存
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN

August 26, 2013

Executive Director
Robert Hamaguchi

Board Members
Sandy Mori, President
Caryl Ito, Vice President
Mark Moriguchi, Treasurer
Doug Dawkins, Secretary
Seiko Fujimoto
Denis Henmi
Tak Matsuba
Bendi Nakajo
Rosalyn Iona
Lisa Wanda

Advisory Board
Hatsuro Aizawa
Steven Chu
Michael Cozue
Rev. Richard Grange
Rod Henmi
Dary Higashi
Yu Hironaka
David Kuida
Karen Kos
Travis Kiyota
Ben Kobashigawa
Dora Kuniyara
Charlie Morimoto
June ko Nakagawa
Jeny Oso
Jongmin Paek
Kathy Reyes
Kenji Taguma
Panels Wu
JK Yamamoto

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Steve Werthelm
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

Dear Commissioners and Supervisors,

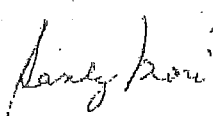
The Japantown Task Force, Inc. is a non-profit community-based organization formed in 2002 focused on the preservation, planning, and promotion of Japantown San Francisco, one of the last three remaining Japantowns in the United States.

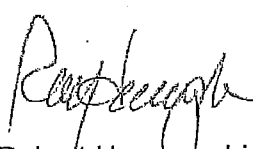
The corporation has followed the development of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy ("JCHESS") and supports the vision and goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy.

The Japantown Task Force, Inc. recommends the commissions and Board of Supervisors approval of the JCHESS endorsement resolutions adopting it as City Policy.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and encouragement for the future of Japantown.

Respectfully,


Sandy Mori
President of the Board of Directors


Robert Hamaguchi
Executive Director

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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File #132445
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August 26, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, Ca 94103-2479

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:57
AK

Dear Commissioners and Supervisors,

My name is Robert K. Sakai. My family has run a business in Japantown, which I recently closed, for over hundred years. I continue to be a property owner in Japantown San Francisco.

I have followed and been involved with the development of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy ("JCHESS") and support the vision and goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy. I recommend the commissions and Board of Supervisors approval of the JCHESS endorsement resolutions.

I and my family sincerely appreciate your continued support and encouragement for the future of Japantown.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Kiichi Sakai

File #130945 Bds-11
CPS
CPage

NJAHS

National Japanese American Historical Society



1684 Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94115-3604

PHONE (415) 921-5007

FAX (415) 921-5087

EMAIL njahs@njahs.org

WEB www.njahs.org

August 27, 2013

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SAN FRANCISCO
SEP 27 PM 3:58

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
C/o Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

Dear Commissioners and Supervisors,

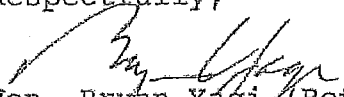
The National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. (NJAHHS) is a 501 c 3 non-profit membership organization formed in 1983 which is dedicated to the collection, preservation; interpretation and sharing of the Japanese American experience for a global community.


The NJAHHS has been involved in the development of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS) through the active participation of our Executive Director and Board member / businessman Kenneth Kaji. We support the vision and goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy.

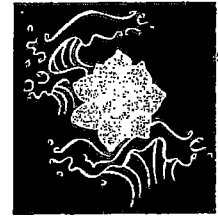
The Japantown Task Force, Inc. recommends the commissions and Board of Supervisors approval of the JCHESS endorsement resolutions adopting it as City Policy.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and encouragement for the future of Japantown, as one of the last three remaining Japantowns in the United States.

Respectfully,


Hon. Bryan Yagi (Ret.)
President, Board of Directors


Rosalyn Tonai
Executive Director



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CPAP

KABUKI

Springs & Spa

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:58

AZ

August 28, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

Dear Commissioners and Supervisors,

Kabuki Springs & Spa is a venerable and historic business in San Francisco's Japan Town.

As director of Kabuki and long time business owner in the neighborhood I have followed the development of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy ("JCHESS") and I support the vision and goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy. Kabuki Springs & Spa, a Joie de Vivre spa, recommends the Commissions and Board of Supervisors approval of the JCHESS endorsement resolutions.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and encouragement for the future of Japantown.

Peace,

Kathy Nelsen

Japan Center
1750 Geary Blvd.
San Francisco
CA 94115
TEL 415.922.6000
FAX 415.922.6005
kabukisprings.com

A Joie de Vivre Spa

File # 130445 BSS-11
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LPage

PACIFIC HEIGHTS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

2585 PACIFIC AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115
TELEPHONE: (415) 922-3572

28 August 2013

San Francisco Board of Supervisors Via e-mail
c/o Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:58
AK

Dear Supervisors:

The Pacific Heights Residents Association, representing residents living in the area bounded by Bush, Presidio, Union and Van Ness, was founded in 1972 with a focus on preserving the character of our neighborhood. As such, PHRA has long recognized the importance of both the role of historic preservation and the role of the commercial districts on the character and quality of life.

PHRA endorses the JCHES plan, noting the following key points:

- 1) JCHES recognizes that for a community cultural resource, it is important to recognize and protect not only the historically significant built environment, but also the cultural history -- the organizations, festivals and other community activities that underlie any community cultural resource. The Cultural Heritage component of JCHES provides a comprehensive approach to both the physical/architectural and the culturally significant features of Japantown.
- 2) JCHES recognizes that a healthy community also requires a thriving small independent business and merchant base, and that such a base is closely linked to the health of cultural preservation. In support of this, JCHES creates a named Japantown Neighborhood Commercial District, providing flexible zoning controls appropriate to specific needs of the Japantown community. The benefits of named NCDs, and the fine grained controls this permits, have demonstrated their value in NCDs across San Francisco.
- 3) JCHES recognizes that, while governmental actions can damage community, as experienced by the Japanese-American community at multiple times in the 20th century, preserving and maintaining a cultural community is primarily the responsibility of the community. While local government support is essential, a community needs to have a common vision and goals. JCHES clearly articulates a community vision and goals, identifies a range of possible strategies and tactics to achieve those goals, and identifies how and where San Francisco's agencies play a role in supporting the Japantown

File # 135945

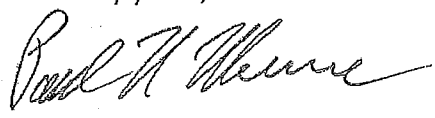
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community. In addition to providing guidance to Japantown, the groundbreaking JCHES approach also offers a roadmap to other communities.

4) JCHES articulates a balanced approach to growth and sustainability, reflecting the community's view that large scale development can pose a danger to the community's cultural preservation and conservation efforts.

JCHES is an innovative approach to fostering a sustainable community, and PHRA urges support of the proposal.

Sincerely yours,



Paul H. Wermer
Board Member, Pacific Heights Residents Association

Cc: Japantown Organizing Committee, c/o Robert Hamaguchi

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SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:58
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file # 130945 B33-11
LOB
C. Pope



Japanese American Religious Federation

Mailing Address: 1909 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94115-3204

"To serve our community in good faith."

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:58
AK

August 29, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Steve Wertheim
SF Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

Dear Commissioners & Supervisors,

The Executive Board of the Japanese American Religious Federation of San Francisco (JARF), a collection of 12 Japanese heritage congregations in San Francisco, wish to register support for the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy JCHESS program. We agree that Japantown is worthy of the city's attention, with its many buildings, businesses and organizations and cultural events.

Japantown is also in a desirable location in the city, and needs to have a plan in place to deal with potential economic development. The plan proposed by JCHESS has involved many parts of our community, and reflects the need to protect our cultural heritage.

Our organization, JARF, agrees with the vision of the JCHESS that Japantown will thrive as a culturally rich, authentic and economically vibrant neighborhood, serving as the cultural heart of the community, and with the goals to secure Japantown's future as the historical and cultural heart of the community, secure its future as a thriving commercial and retail district, secure its future as a home to residents and community-based institutions and to secure its future as a physically attractive and vibrant environment.

We encourage you to consider the 19 recommendations proposed by JCHESS carefully, as they are designed to encourage economic development and re-investment in the community.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Stina Pope

JARF President & Board of Directors

August 29, 2013

Historic Planning Commission
Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Mr. Steve Wertheim
SF Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103
Sent via USPS and Email - steve.wertheim@sfgov.org

File #13045 BOS-11
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C Page

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:58
AK

RE: JCHESS

Dear Commissioners and the Board of Supervisors:

My name is Michiko Yamada and my family and I are property owners and long-time residents of Japantown. I grew up in this neighborhood and my parents owned a small Japanese confectionery store for thirty-six years in the Western Addition/Japantown area. We have been a part of this community and neighborhood for close to fifty years.

In July, Mr. Hamaguchi, Japantown Organizing Committee, introduced the JCHESS, a proposed plan designed to protect and preserve the cultural heritage and promote economic development of Japantown, to the Historic Planning Commission and to the Planning Commission. In September, you will be asked to endorse the JCHESS. I am writing to ask for your support and endorsement of the JCHESS.

The JCHESS is the culmination of thirteen years of careful planning, thought, dialogue and input from community leaders, neighbors, business and property owners, and Planning Department staff. It is a comprehensive, systematic plan that outlines recommendations and goals that may be used as a guideline for Japantown's future economic sustainability. This plan includes marketing ideas; proposed resolutions for continued maintenance, repairs and public improvements; identifying potential funding sources; and strategies for continued neighborhood and community development and visibility.

As you are aware, there are only three remaining Japantowns left in the United States. San Francisco is fortunate to be included as one of those cities. However, it is apparent that measures must be taken to protect and preserve our Japantown. This is an ongoing project that requires commitment and continued hard work. Your support and endorsement will be the first step in achieving this important goal. Together, with your support and involvement from our community, we can ensure that San Francisco will always have a strong, vibrant and culturally-relevant Japantown for future generations.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Michiko Yamada
1959 Sutter Street # B
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 775-0860

cc: Shelley Caltagirone, Planning & Historic Preservation
Robert Hamaguchi, Executive Director, Japantown Task Force

File # 132445
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The Carlisle Homeowners Association
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 29, 2013

**TO: Historic Preservation Commission
Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors**

RE: JCHESS

On behalf of the 100+ residents of the Carlisle, a senior residential community located at 1450 Post Street, San Francisco, 94109, we are pleased to write this letter of endorsement and strong support of JCHESS.

We are close neighbors of Japantown and many of us have personal and business ties with the community.

JCHESS is a thoughtfully prepared plan that describes clearly and comprehensively the steps required to preserve the cultural identity of this community. We believe that the adoption of this plan will benefit not only our communities, but also the entire City.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Historical Preservation Commission, the San Francisco Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors to adopt the JCHESS plan and take the necessary steps to implement the recommendations of the plan.

Sincerely,

S/Sigmund Freeman
President

S/Gabriel Gregoratos, MD
Vice-President

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:59
AK

August 31, 2013

To: Mr. Steve Wertheim, SF Planning Department

Attention: SF Historic Preservation Commission
SF Planning Commission
SF Board of Supervisors

Dear Commissioners and Board Members:

The extensive community planning process sponsored by the Japantown Organizing Committee and the JCHESS recommendations that have resulted from many years of input, research and analysis are strongly supported by the *Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Association (CHNA)*.

Comprehensive land use planning will benefit Japantown as well as positively impact sustainable planning efforts for other projects in our city. A robust Japantown is important to Cathedral Hill residents who support their services and merchants as well as the community and cultural events in this important historical district.

We urge the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) , Planning Commission(PC) and Board of Supervisors (BOS) to support the JCHESS by endorsing it as City Policy.

Of primary concern to *CHNA* members is for the Planning Commission and the BOS both prioritize the adoption of the Japantown Design Guidelines and to proactively work with other agencies, including the Department of Public Works, The Recreation and Parks Department, and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, to implement those recommendations of the JCHESS which involve capital outlay for infrastructure projects.

As a neighborhood with many seniors concerned with public transit and pedestrian safety, we also strongly endorse the recommendation that the San Francisco County Transportation Authority implement the Geary Bus Rapid Transit project in a manner that provides better access to Japantown, and creates better crossing across Geary Boulevard.

Thank you in advance for your support of JCHESS.

Regards,

Marlayne Morgan
Cathedral Hill Neighbors

File # 132445
Bos-11
C03
C Page



September 2, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:59
AK

Dear Commissioners and Supervisors,

On behalf of Sundance Cinemas, an anchor retailer in San Francisco's Japantown as the historic Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, would like to confirm our whole-hearted support of 'JCHESS', currently under consideration.

We at Sundance Cinemas, in operation in Japantown since 2006, have followed the development of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy ("JCHESS") and supports the vision and goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy.

As a presenter of art, art film, and a gathering place for the community, we feel that 'JCHESS' is a perfect fit for the community.

Sundance Cinemas recommends the commissions and Board of Supervisors approval of the JCHESS endorsement resolutions.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement for the future of Japantown.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Klasky Gribler
Vice President of Marketing
Sundance Cinemas

File # 130945 BSS-11
COR
CPRC



KOKORO

AN ACTIVE, CARING COMMUNITY FOR SENIORS

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:59
AK

September 3, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
c/o Steve Wertheim
SF Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

Kokoro Assisted Living
Inc.
Board of Directors

Dear Commissioners,

Douglas Nomura
President

Kokoro Assisted Living Inc. located in Japantown is a nonprofit organization that provides affordable housing and assistance with activities of daily living for the elderly.

Bob Obana
Vice-President

On behalf of the Kokoro Board of Directors I am pleased to offer support for the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS).

Andy Nakahata
Secretary

Bill Baird
Treasurer

We have been closely monitoring the development of the JCHESS, formerly the Japantown Better Neighborhood Plan and strongly support the vision and goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy.

Stephanie Fujii
Gary Hoshiyama
John Kikuchi
John Muranishi
Jeff Mori
Sumiko Sheaffer
Sharon L. Yow

Thank you to the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Commission and the Planning Department for your continued support and encouragement.

Kirk Miyake
Executive Director

Kokoro Assisted Living Inc. therefore, strongly recommends the commission to approve the endorsement resolutions.

Respectfully,

Kirk Miyake
Executive Director
Kokoro Assisted Living

Kokoro Assisted Living
1881 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
(415) 776-8066
www.KokoroAssistedLiving.org

RCFE #385600235

file # 130945 BOS-11
COPB
C. Depp

September 3, 2013

Dear Supervisors

Kimochi Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides culturally sensitive care for seniors serving the Japanese American Community and seniors in San Francisco at large. I have been personally involved in the development of the JCHESS formerly the Japantown Better Neighborhood Plan and on behalf of Kimochi Inc. I am pleased to offer support for the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economics Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS).

Kimochi Inc. particularly supports the vision & goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy. Kimochi therefore recommends the Board of Supervisors to approve the endorsement resolutions.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and encouragement for the future of Japantown San Francisco.

Best Regards,

Steve Nakajo

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2013 SEP 27 PM 3:59
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File # 130445 B05-11
LOB
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KONKO CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO

金光教サンフランシスコ教会

1909 BUSH STREET

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115-3226

September 5, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:59
AK

Dear Commissioners & Supervisors:

The Konko Church of San Francisco's Board of Directors and congregation strongly support the Japantown Cultural Heritage Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS). We believe the JCHESS will provide the best plan for the future of San Francisco's Japantown.

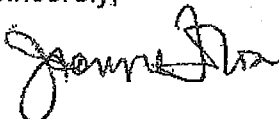
San Francisco's Japantown has survived both the 1942 Federal government's World War II Internment of Japanese Americans to concentration camps, and the San Francisco Redevelopment's eviction of Japanese Americans from their homes and businesses from Japantown in the 1960's. The present Japantown is a vibrant, thriving community, but a fragile one that can be threatened with gentrification.

The recent plan to demolish the Japan Center and Garage would have greatly diminished or even converted Japantown to an International town. There are only three Japantowns in the entire United States. The JCHESS will help preserve the Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage for future generations. The San Francisco Japantown serves as the Japantown for the entire Bay Area.

We, at the Konko Church of San Francisco, strongly encourage the Board of Supervisors, Historic Preservation Commission, and the Planning Department to endorse the JCHESS.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rev. Joanne Tolosa, Konko Church of San Francisco Head Minister,
The Board of Directors & Congregation



AFRICAN AMERICAN
ART & CULTURE
C O M P L E X

File # 130945

Bos-11
C03
C Page

September 6, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
c/o Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

RECEIVED
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2013 SEP 27 PM 3:59
AK

Dear Commissioners and Supervisors,

The African American Art & Culture Complex (AAACC) is a non-profit in the Japantown area of San Francisco.

The AAACC has followed the development of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy ("JCHESS") and supports the vision and goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy.

The AAACC recommends the commission's and Board of Supervisors' approval of the JCHESS endorsement resolutions.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and encouragement for the future of Japantown.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Hayes
Executive Director

762 FULTON STREET, SUITE 300
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
Phone 415.922.2049
Fax 415.922.5130
WWW.AAACC.ORG

File #130415 BSB-11
COS
UPREP

September 9, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
c/o Steve Wertheim
SF Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:59
AK

Dear Commissioners,

Good morning. My name is Greg Vioria, a San Francisco born resident and a Community Aide for the Japantown Task Force, Inc.

My family grew up in San Francisco and has used Japantown as a source of Japanese foods and goods for many years and is concerned about the longevity of Japantown.

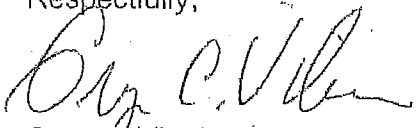
I have been a part of the community outreach of the JCHESS and have personally presented our JCHESS at numerous community groups. We have painstakingly recorded all the comments and posted them to the Japantown Planning Department website and addressed each one with existing tools in the JCHESS. All group's comments have been positive and supportive.

As all of you know, balancing cultural heritage preservation and economic sustainability is complicated. I believe the elements in the JCHESS does this.

Thank you to the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Commission and the Planning Department for their continued support and encouragement.

I, therefore, recommend the commission to approve the endorsement resolutions.

Respectfully,



Greg C. Vioria
3758 Sacramento St.
San Francisco, CA 94118

File # 133445 BSS-11
COTB
CPage

September 9, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
c/o Steve Wertheim
SF Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:59
A/C

Dear Commissioners,

Nakayoshi Young Professionals is a program operating under the Japanese American Citizen League's Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District. Nakayoshi is an organization of young adults from all backgrounds with the purpose of promoting involvement in the Japanese American and Asian Pacific Islander Communities in the Bay Area, to address social justice issues, and to engage in social activities, career development and philanthropy.

On behalf of Nakayoshi I am pleased to offer support for the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS).

We have been closely monitoring the development of the JCHESS formerly the Japantown Better Neighborhood Plan.

Nakayoshi particularly supports the vision and goals of JCHESS and the endorsement of JCHESS as City Policy.

Thank you to the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Commission and the Planning Department for their continued support and encouragement.

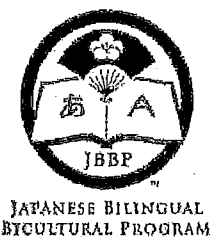
Nakayoshi, therefore, recommends the commission to approve the endorsement resolutions.

Respectfully,



Atsushi Miyamoto
Chair
Nakayoshi Young Professionals

File #130415 BOS-11
COB
CDPP



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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
2013 SEP 27 PM 3:59
AK

September 10, 2013

Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Commission
Board of Supervisors
Attn: Steve Wertheim
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

Dear Commissioners and Supervisors,

The Parent Teacher Community Council – Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program at Rosa Parks Elementary is a non-profit community-based association that is a longstanding member of the San Francisco Japantown community.

The PTCC-JBBP has followed the development of the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy ("JCHESS") and has hosted a presentation by the planning Organizing Committee to update the board on the development and progress of the planning effort. We support the JCHESS's vision and goals. Our program provides young San Franciscans a complete language and cultural education within an active vital neighborhood. The long-term success of this quality education depends on the strength of the Japantown community for both cultural and financial support.

We urge that the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and Historical Preservation Commission endorse JCHESS's vision and adopt its recommendations as City Policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Directors PTCC-JBBP at Rosa Parks Elementary

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Susie Kagami | Kristen Hata | Aileen Ichikawa | Jade Nelson |
| Ed Castellanos | Lynn Muscat | Taeko Morioka | Glynis Nakahara |
| Kristy Topham | Raymond Lum | Augie Phillips | Deborah Hamilton |
| Peter Tobias | Naomi Nishioka | | |