

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.