

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.