

File No. 210516

Committee Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

Board Item No. 24

# COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: May 11, 2021

### Cmte Board

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- Budget and Legislative Analyst Report
- Youth Commission Report
- Introduction Form
- Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report
- MOU
- Grant Information Form
- Grant Budget
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- Form 126 – Ethics Commission
- Award Letter
- Application
- Public Correspondence

### OTHER

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Prepared by: Lisa Lew

Date: May 7, 2021

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1 [James W. Chow Day - May 12, 2021]

2

3 **Resolution commending James W. Chow on the occasion of his 100th birthday, and**  
4 **declaring May 12, 2021, as James W. Chow Day in the City and County of San**  
5 **Francisco.**

6

7 WHEREAS, James W. Chow, born May 12, 1921 in San Jose, California, is one of  
8 California's most remarkable native sons and a hero to his family, friends and community; and

9 WHEREAS, In the eyes of his family and friends, Mr. Chow is one-of-a-kind: an  
10 indomitable, independent, self-reliant, community-minded man who lives what he preaches:  
11 hard work, study, thrift, respect, gumption, with love of family and loyalty to friends, and  
12 upholding pride in his heritage; and

13 WHEREAS, Having been born in a period of intense anti-Chinese racism and under a  
14 system of discriminatory, restrictive laws that stifled immigration and land ownership, Mr.  
15 Chow relocated to China under his parent's care in 1922; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Chow returned to California at 13 with \$2 in his pocket in July 1934, in  
17 the midst of the Great Depression; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Chow faced intense interrogation by the Special Board of Inquiry  
19 comprised of three U.S. Immigration inspectors to prove his natural-born citizenship, and  
20 stayed approximately two weeks in the detention barracks and the U.S. hospital in the area  
21 known as China Cove, in the northeast corner of Angel Island, awaiting adjudication of his  
22 case; and

23 WHEREAS, After proving his citizenship, Mr. Chow learned to cook when he  
24 accompanied his older brother on trips across the country to Florida, worked at restaurants  
25 during school breaks, developed a habit of earning his keep and saving for his education, and,

1 while not working, joined his Galileo and Chung Wah Chinese Central High School friends,  
2 riding street cars and buses all over San Francisco in addition to car trips to Los Angeles; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Chow served his country during World War II as a shipfitter at the  
4 Hunters Point and Mare Island U.S. Naval Shipyards from 1942 to 1945, contributing mightily  
5 to the war effort; and

6 WHEREAS, While working in the shipyards, Mr. Chow attended City College, studying  
7 to be an engineer, where he met his future wife, the lovely and intelligent Arleen May Gong,  
8 and where they were active in the China War Relief - staging plays and performances in  
9 storefronts and school auditoriums to raise funds and support for the Allied effort in China and  
10 the Pacific; and

11 WHEREAS, After the war, Mr. Chow went into business with his older brother, taking  
12 over a grocery store in Oakland, the "Friendly Food Market" at the corner of Allendale and  
13 38th Avenues, in a predominantly Caucasian neighborhood in which he handled the grocery  
14 department, his brother the meat department and together they earned the loyalty and trust of  
15 their customers and neighbors; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1952, a few years after the birth of their first child, Mr. and Mrs. Chow  
17 opened "The Fashion Center," a women's and children's clothing and variety store on San  
18 Francisco's Stockton Street; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the course of little more than decade, while raising his children  
20 Stephanie, Christopher and Lisa, Mr. Chow expanded into the poultry product wholesale  
21 business, serving clients in the East Bay, North Bay and San Joaquin Valley, and the laundry  
22 service industry with the coin-operated "Sani-White Laundromat," among the first in  
23 Chinatown to offer self-service machines to customers; and

24 WHEREAS, After Mr. Chow put all his children through San Francisco State University  
25 and the University of California, he helped his wife earn her bachelor's degree and teaching

1 credential from University of San Francisco; and

2 WHEREAS, From the 1970s to 2007, Mr. Chow was a stalwart ally and assistant to his  
3 late wife, during her 35-year tenure as a teacher and vice-principal of the Hip Wo Chinese  
4 Christian Academy, one of America’s longest-standing Chinese language schools; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Chow has been active in building and strengthening his community  
6 organizations and institutions, serving as a leader and five-term English Secretary for the Gee  
7 Tuck Sam Tuck Benevolent Association; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Chow served as Chairman of the Board of the Chung Wah Alumni  
9 Association (Chinese Central High School) for more than 20 years, inspiring new leadership to  
10 sustain its mission to serve the Chinese-American community, including the launch of a  
11 capital campaign to renovate and retrofit the school campus in Chinatown; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Chow serves as the epitome of the common man who lived his  
13 principles to an uncommon degree with uncommon endurance and uncommon will, his life  
14 encapsulating good, hard work; thriftiness; education; fairness; freedom; honesty; respect for  
15 all people and gumption to do the right thing in the right way; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
17 commends James W. Chow on the occasion of his 100th birthday; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
19 Francisco declares May 12, 2021, as James W. Chow Day in the City and County of San  
20 Francisco.

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Print Form

# Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp  
or meeting date

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

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor [ ] inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. [ ] from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. [ ]
- 9. Reactivate File No. [ ]
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on [ ]

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

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

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

Sponsor(s):

Chan

Subject:

James W. Chow Day – May 12, 2021

The text is listed:

Resolution commending James W. Chow on the occasion of his 100th birthday, and declaring May 12, 2021, as James W. Chow Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:



For Clerk's Use Only