

1 [Honoring Nancy Kwan and James Shigeta's return to San Francisco]

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3 **Resolution honoring Flower Drum Song legends Nancy Kwan and James Shigeta's**
4 **return to San Francisco**

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6 WHEREAS, In 1960, at the age of 18, Hong Kong-born Nancy Kwan was discovered
7 studying dance at England's Royal Ballet School, and cast in the starring role of a free-spirit
8 who captivates artist William Holden in *The World of Suzie Wong*, and gained international
9 fame; and

10 WHEREAS, James Shigeta was discovered on a 1958 television talent show and
11 groomed as Hollywood's first Asian leading man in films including roles in *Crimson Kimono*
12 and *Bridge to the Sun* where he "got the girl," and subsequently was awarded the 1960
13 Golden Globe for Most Promising Newcomer; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1961, Universal-International produced Rodgers and Hammerstein's
15 *Flower Drum Song*, the most expensive movie musical of its time, and took the bold step of
16 casting an all-Asian cast including the boyishly-handsome Shigeta and drop-dead gorgeous
17 Kwan as the romantic leads; and

18 WHEREAS, The film was a national success and became a watershed moment for
19 second-generation Chinese and Japanese in post-war America and inspired an entire
20 generation of Asian actors, performers and media personalities that would become the public
21 faces and voices of Asian Americans; and

22 WHEREAS, *Flower Drum Song*, a story of romance and clashing cultures, is set in San
23 Francisco's Chinatown, and with songs such as "Grant Avenue" became a smash-hit and
24 brought national attention to the rapidly-changing Asian population and its cultural
25 contributions to the diversity of this great City; and

FILE NO.

RESOLUTION NO.

1 WHEREAS, Both Nancy Kwan and James Shigeta have enjoyed successful careers in
2 film and television spanning over five decades and became instant “crossover” stars — even
3 before the term existed — by giving Asians a new, fresh image that appealed to both
4 Hollywood and an increasingly accepting movie audience; and

5 WHEREAS, Nancy Kwan and James Shigeta are reuniting in San Francisco for the
6 first-time since *Flower Drum Song* debuted 45 years ago for a one-night production of A.R.
7 Gurney’s *Love Letters* at the San Francisco’s War Memorial & Performing Arts Center’s
8 Herbst Theatre benefiting the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern
9 California; now therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
11 hereby proclaims July 7th, 2006 Nancy Kwan and James Shigeta Day in honor of their return
12 to San Francisco, the City where “A Hundred Million Miracles” are happening everyday.
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