



September 6, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA. 94102-4689

**RE: Item #20 SOMA Pilipinas - Filipino Cultural Heritage
District's Cultural, History, Housing, Economic Sustainability
Strategy Report.**

Dear Supervisors:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter to support the adoption of the SOMA Pilipinas Cultural, History, Housing, and Economic Sustainability Strategy Report (CHHESS).

As a long-time service provider in the South of Market, I have seen the displacement of the working class community and the lack of employment opportunities in the city. I also witness the reliance of the community in the non-profit organizations in the district most especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CHHESS Report includes key strategies that will help the Filipino Community thrive. These strategies include affordable housing, cultural and arts appreciation and sustainability of organizations that provide services to all sectors in the neighborhood.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors support for the CHHESS means support not only for the Filipino Community in the South of Market, but also the Filipino Community in San Francisco.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

Luisa M. Antonio
Executive Director



September 2, 2022

Support for SoMa Pilipinas CHHES Report & Strategies

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Dear President Walton and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Joy Ng and I am a Housing Caseworker at the Bayanihan Equity Center. I am both a worker and resident in D6, and actively involved in the SoMa community since 2016. I come from a background of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University and community organizing in the local Filipino community. My roots are in teaching workshops to Bay Area youth and college students— and even visiting tourists— about the history of the Manilatown I-Hotel. The biggest takeaways are the struggles to protect elderly Chinese and Filipino tenants from gentrification during the 1970s, and how the housing crisis persists today.

Unlike the now-destroyed 10-block cultural neighborhood of Manilatown, SoMa Pilipinas— as a recognized historical Filipino district— has taken the time and the necessary steps to survey community needs, bring businesses to the district, and activate community spaces. The CHHES Report is an incredibly succinct offering of research and insight to let San Francisco leaders know exactly what SoMa residents and the Filipino community needs in order to survive in our city.

The Tenant Protections Strategies in the CHHES Report outlines the history of Filipino families disproportionately displaced by the tech boom. As a Housing Caseworker, I answer to the needs of our community, and I have only been able to offer HOPE instead of more access and resources to housing for low-income households. The endless cycles of applications and lotteries are becoming a long-term struggle, especially as the cost of living increases. As the struggle for affordable housing continues, we need San Francisco to meet San Franciscan Filipino households where they are, and find ways to stabilize our people where they are—to prevent homelessness, if not to prevent another erasure like Manilatown. I offer my utmost respect, support, and sincere hope to see the community-led CHHES Strategies and Recommendations come to pass.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joy Ng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Joy" and "Ng" being capitalized and prominent.

Joy Ng