



May 22, 2023

Budget and Finance Committee
Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
City Hall - 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: MEETING OF 5/24/23 – ITEMS 8 & 9

Dear Supervisors Chan, Mandelman and Safai,

The Japantown Merchants Association requests your full support of the referenced items.

Since 2015, the Japantown community has been working to address the faulty workmanship of the Japantown Peace Plaza (Plaza) from the last renovation in 2000. After countless public meetings and town halls, the Japantown community approved a design that included input from the community. The prior renovation had no prior participation from the community, so we are pleased that the current project is community driven.

As you may know, in 2020 the voters approved Proposition A bond, which allocated \$25M towards the renovation of the Plaza. However, due to rising costs caused by the pandemic, the project is now estimated at \$34M.

The Japantown community along with the Recreation and Park Department reached out to Assemblymember Phil Ting and Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi to help make up the shortfall which they generously supported to pledge funds towards the project.

Therefore, we urge you to accept Items 8 and 9 towards the renovation of the Plaza that the community can be proud of. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Hashimoto
President