

1 [Korean Chuseok Day - September 17, 2024]

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3 **Resolution recognizing September 17, 2024, as Korean Chuseok Day and honoring the**
4 **Korean Center, Inc. for hosting the 6th Annual Bay Area Korean Chuseok Festival in**
5 **San Francisco on September 14, 2024, and for its contributions to the Korean American**
6 **community in the City and County of San Francisco.**

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8 WHEREAS, Korean Chuseok Day, known colloquially as Korean Thanksgiving, is a
9 harvest festival celebrated at the autumn equinox of the Lunar Calendar and is one of the
10 most important and widely celebrated holidays in Korean culture and its diaspora; and

11 WHEREAS, With roots dating back over 2,000 years, Chuseok Day has been
12 recognized as a Korean national holiday since 1949, and its celebration has since spread
13 worldwide as Korean communities have flourished in various countries; and

14 WHEREAS, Korean Americans are the fifth largest Asian American ethnic group in the
15 United States, with a population of over 1.8 million, including more than 500,000 in California
16 and 60,000 in San Francisco alone; and

17 WHEREAS, Consequently, Korean Americans have contributed immeasurably to the
18 culture and history of this city, state, and country; and

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco has been a principal port of entry for Korean immigrants
20 since the early 1900s and even more recently since the repeal of restrictive immigration
21 quotas in 1965, making San Francisco a thriving center of political activism and cultural
22 importance for Koreans and Korean Americans since the late 19th century; and

23 WHEREAS, This special relationship began in 1883 when Bobingsa, the first Korean
24 diplomatic delegation dispatched to the United States, led by Prince Min Young-Ik, had San
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1 Francisco as its first destination, and the delegation stayed at the Palace Hotel located on 2
2 New Montgomery Street; and

3 WHEREAS, The community-oriented Korean National Association was founded in San
4 Francisco in 1909, functioning as a de facto government in exile for Koreans rendered
5 stateless in 1910, and the Association's newspaper Shinhan Minbo provided knowledge and
6 assistance to immigrants across the Korean diaspora even after Korea's liberation from Japan
7 in 1945; and

8 WHEREAS, This unique bond between San Francisco, the United States' growing
9 Korean American community, and Korea itself was honored by the installation of the Taedong
10 Statue, located at Susan Bierman Park on the Embarcadero, donated in 1983 by the
11 government and people of the Republic of Korea; and

12 WHEREAS, The Korean Center, Inc., established in 1974, has played a vital role in
13 maintaining this diplomatic relationship by serving as a cornerstone of the Korean American
14 community in San Francisco, providing vital services and programs that have positively
15 impacted the lives of countless individuals and families; and

16 WHEREAS, The Korean Center, Inc. has been a driving force in preserving and
17 promoting Korean culture and heritage in San Francisco, offering language classes, traditional
18 music and dance performances, art exhibitions, and cultural workshops that have deepened
19 the understanding and appreciation of Korean traditions among both Korean Americans and
20 the wider community; and

21 WHEREAS, The Korean Center, Inc. has actively advocated for the rights and welfare
22 of the Korean American community, addressing issues such as immigration policies,
23 healthcare access, language assistance, and educational equity, working towards creating a
24 more inclusive and equitable society for Korean Americans in San Francisco; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Korean American community's contributions are immeasurable
2 despite facing serious economic obstacles and social barriers, becoming a crucial part of the
3 tapestry of communities that make San Francisco the city we know and love; and

4 WHEREAS, It is important for San Francisco to recognize Korean Chuseok Day so that
5 we bring attention to the continued needs of the underserved Korean American community;
6 now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, The City and County of San Francisco shall recognize September 17,
8 2024, which is the 15th day of the 8th month of the Lunar Calendar as Korean Chuseok Day;
9 and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 6th Annual Bay Area Korean Chuseok Festival held
11 by the Korean Center, Inc. in San Francisco on September 14, 2024, is recognized as the
12 City's official 2024 celebration of the cultural day; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco expresses its
14 gratitude to the Korean Center, Inc. for its exceptional contributions to the Korean American
15 community, fostering cultural understanding, and promoting the well-being of Korean
16 immigrants and Korean Americans and their families in San Francisco.