

Amendment by Supervisors Wiener and Yee
Agenda item 14

WHEREAS, victimization of women has occurred in other countries, however it does not in any way excuse Japan's actions.



日本町の経済発展・計画・保存

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN

September 18, 2105

Board of Supervisors

London Breed, Mark Farrell, Katy Tang, Jane Kim, Malia Cohen, John Avalos, Norman Yee, Scott Wiener, Eric Mar, David Campos, Julie Christensen
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Supervisors,

The Japantown Task Force (JTF) Board of Directors, issued public comment and a letter to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee on the draft Resolution FILE NO. 150764. We are issuing a follow up letter to the Board of Supervisors.

The issue of the resolution's controversy was first raised at the JTF board meeting in August 2015 and Board took action to direct the issue be explored further at the JTF Cultural Heritage Committee, headed by Rosalyn Tonai and members of the Japantown Taskforce and Japan town community.

The Committee reviewed the resolution, spoke to a few members who attended an impromptu informational meeting after a request was made to Mar's office, checked in the local Japanese American Citizens League, and asked Japanese and Japanese American community members about their concerns regarding the memorial and resolution.

As a result, the recommendations were presented to the full JTF board at our September Board meeting. The Japantown Task Force Board unanimously passed a motion to formally request that the process of establishing a memorial to comfort women be delayed and reviewed so that 1) proper outreach and education can be made to the Japanese American and Japantown community, given the perception that an anti-Japanese backlash would impact the lives and members of our community and that 2) a broad and inclusive process that includes key leaders of the Japanese American community be put into effect toward a more amenable solution that would draw all parties and neighborhoods together toward a peaceful resolution of this contentious issue.

In addition, it was clear that leaders of the Japanese American community have not been formally approached to work closely with the broader Asian Pacific Islander community on the comfort women memorial issue.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Alice Kawahatsu, President

September 16, 2105

Supervisors Eric Mar, David Campos, Julie Christensen
Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of the Japantown Task Force (JTF) Board of Directors, I am issuing public comment and a letter to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee on the draft Resolution FILE NO. 150764

The issue of the resolution's controversy was raised at the JTF board meeting in August and Board took action to direct the issue be explored further at the JTF Cultural Heritage Committee, headed by myself and members of the Japantown Taskforce and Japan town community.

We reviewed the resolution, spoke to a few members who attended an impromptu informational meeting after a request was made to Mar's office, checked in the local JACL, and asked Japanese and Japanese American community members about their concerns regarding the memorial and resolution.

As a result, we made our recommendations be known to the full board last night. The Japantown Task Force Board unanimously passed a motion to formally request that the process of establishing a memorial to comfort women be delayed and reviewed so that 1) proper outreach and education can be made to the Japanese American and Japantown community, given the perception that an anti-Japanese backlash would impact the lives and their community and that 2) a broad and inclusive process that includes key members of the Japanese American community be put into effect toward a more amenable solution that would draw all parties and neighborhoods together toward a peaceful, amenable resolution of this contentious issue.

In addition, it was clear that leaders of the Japanese American community have not been approached to work closely with the broader Asian Pacific Islander community on the comfort women memorial issue.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rosalyn Tonai, Chair, Cultural Heritage Committee
On behalf of the Japantown Task Force

Carroll, John (BOS)

From: Pmizu <pmizu@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 11:54 AM
To: Carroll, John (BOS)
Subject: Fwd: File no 150764, "Comfort Women"

Categories: 150764

Hi John:

It was nice talking with this morning,
re. my Email copy to the BOS.

Just in case you did not receive it,
I am sending a copy per attached below directly to you.

Regards, I. Mizushima

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: pmizu@aol.com
Date: September 21, 2015 at 11:21:12 PM PDT
To: board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org
Subject: File no 150764, "Comfort Women"

Supervisors: Madam Board President London Breed,
Honorable John Avalos,
Honorable David Campos,
Honorable Julie Christiansen,
Honorable Malia Cohen,
Honorable Mark Farrell,
Honorable Jane Kim,
Honorable Eric Mar,
Honorable Katy Tang~
Honorable Scott Weiner,
Honorable Norman Yee

My name is Ichiro Mizushima, and I oppose to building the statue
of comfort women in San Francisco public property.

I had attended at your public hearing at San Francisco City Hall
on 9/17/15, re Comfort Women, your file no. 150764.

I was very much obliged to have opportunity to express my feeling
on the above subject matter to your board.

However, due to heavy number of speakers, our time to speak
our mind was limited to 2 minutes, and hence my net speaking
length was shortened to further limited by the board chairman's

comment time.

Therefore, I would like to submit herewith entire text of my opinion per below for your understanding.

Gist of my opinion are as follows.

A. There were no abduction of Korean Women by Japanese government or Japanese military organization.
Your chairman, member of BOS honorable Eric Mar had recognized existence of US government official record at the hearing (see detail per my speech context copy below).

- 1) APO 689, #49 report state that captured prostitutes were officially classified as "a comfort woman is nothing more than a prostitute or professional camp follower"
- 2) IWG report found no truth on the Korean Allegation as "forced prostitution".

B. WWII history had occurred 70 years ago, and world had changed significantly for Japanese, during that time, Japan have been the most peaceful nation.
Japan had raised women's status, wish to continue peace making effort in international stage.
And do not wish to instill hatred to our future generation and neighboring countries.

Following is my entire contents of intended speech yesterday, 9/17/15.

Korean claim of the "so called" forced comfort women system by Japanese government and military during second world war is completely fabricated story, and entirely faulty according to US government public records per below explained 2 significant findings.

- 1. APO 689, #49 report state that captured prostitutes were officially classified as "a comfort woman is nothing more than a prostitute or professional camp follower"**
- 2. IWG report found no truth on the Korean Allegation as "forced prostitution".**

All comfort women stations were operated by civilian owners of Japanese and Korean shop keepers, simply as commercial prostitution houses.

Korean prostitutes were recruited by the Korean national, and Japanese prostitutes were recruited by the Japanese national in their own countries.

By the way, total estimation of the prostitutes worked in various war theaters in Asia were 50,000, out of which 20% were Korean and 65% were Japanese women.

Most of prostitutes from both countries were sold by their parents or close relatives to compromise their economical hardship, and that were common practice and completely legal at these countries in that period.

Prostitutes had worked hard and earned good income with freedom to enjoy their private life, and in some cases, they even had married soldiers who were mixtures of Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese origin.

Prostitutes had earned up to ten times of high ranked Japanese military officers, saving large sum of bank account, remitting to their families in their home land, and even gained early retirement when they had paid off their initial debts.

At around end of the WWII, a group of 20 Korean prostitutes were captured by U.S. Military forces in the Burma war theaters, APO689 and interrogated. Official U.S. Military records are available at the national archives and record administration, US Army report #49 with happy memories

and treatment by their clients of those captured prostitutes, as well, their life stories in respective home lands that were main cause of their heavy misery, eventually resulted in their own human trafficking by their own relatives.

Another significant war record is in the IWG report (Inter Agency Working Group of 2007) that found no truth on the Korean allegation "as forced prostitution" after 7 years research with 30 million dollars of US government fund, which was requested by the Chinese government.

Most official record and facts had been published by a Japanese history professor in English in June 2015, titled "Comfort Women, Not Sex Slaves" on my hand here among other historical truth by many historians in Japan (and US government public record).

In the mean time, there is no official record of abduction of Korean (or Japanese) Women in any place or even record of revolt by their male counters parts, or official protests being filed any where in Korea.

In August 4th this year, current Japanese Prime Minister Abe had introduced his doctrine supported by group of historians, lawmakers and various dignitaries from different background in Japan stating that Japan have been peace making country for past 70 years after the war, and it is about a time to consolidate war time memories, and look forward to promote younger generation for peaceful world.

His doctrine is supported by most of nations world wide now.

Fighting among Japanese and Korean on such a fiction will contribute no good for them selves or USA, or worldwide nations, while respective countries try to promote world peace and friendship.

It will rather create hatred among Japanese American and Korean American under host

cities and countries expenses, which will contradict US government policies, creating world peace and good intended sister cities program as well.

That will be financial burden for US cities for extra peace keeping facilities, legal expenses or ill feeling between sister cities.

Hope you will come up with reasonable resolution to cure such friction.

Very Truly yours,

Ichiro Mizushima