

1 [Commemorating - 75th Anniversary of the Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1943 -  
2 Magnuson Act - December 17, 2018]

3 **Resolution commemorating December 17, 2018, on the 75th Anniversary of the repeal**  
4 **of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1943, otherwise known as the Magnuson Act.**

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6 WHEREAS, The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the United States' first and only  
7 national law restricting immigration of an entire group, based on race and ethnicity alone; and

8 WHEREAS, The Chinese Exclusion Act was renewed in 1892, 1902, and made  
9 permanent in 1904 and denied Chinese a pathway to citizenship for over 60 years; and

10 WHEREAS, The Chinese Exclusion Act reflected the widespread stereotypes and  
11 beliefs about the Chinese as inferior, degraded, exotic, dangerous, heathens and competitors  
12 for jobs and wages; and

13 WHEREAS, The Chinese Exclusion Act perpetuated xenophobia, discrimination, and  
14 the marginalization of Chinese people; and

15 WHEREAS, The Chinese Exclusion Act separated thousands of families for more than  
16 six decades; and

17 WHEREAS, Between 1850 and 1913, more than fifteen laws anti-Chinese laws were  
18 introduced, limiting their participation in business, education and the labor force; and

19 WHEREAS, After six decades of separating families and inflicting irreparable damage  
20 on the Chinese community, the Magnuson Act, also known as the repeal of the Chinese  
21 Exclusion Act of 1943, was proposed by U.S. Representative (later Senator) Warren G.  
22 Magnuson (WA-1) of Washington; and

23 WHEREAS, The Magnuson Act was signed into law on December 17, 1943, in the  
24 United States by President Franklin Roosevelt; and

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1           WHEREAS, The Magnuson Act led to President Lyndon criticizing former anti-Chinese  
2 laws, saying “It has been un-American in the highest sense, because it has been untrue to the  
3 faith that brought thousands to these shores even before we were a country.”; and

4           WHEREAS, In 2011 and 2012, the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives  
5 respectively, unanimously condemned the Chinese Exclusion Laws and “affirmed Congress’  
6 commitment to preserve the civil rights and constitutional protections for all people”; and

7           WHEREAS, Since President Trump was elected in 2016, he has issued Executive  
8 Orders directed at banning or restricting certain groups from immigrating to the United States,  
9 such as the Muslim ban he issued on September 24, 2017; and

10          WHEREAS, Since Trump’s election and his administration’s increased use of  
11 incendiary anti-immigrant rhetoric, white nationalism, hate crimes, and anti-immigrant  
12 sentiment have significantly increased across the country; and

13          WHEREAS, The United States has historically served as a beacon of hope and refuge  
14 for immigrants seeking greater economic opportunity and a safer, healthier home for their  
15 families; and

16          WHEREAS, According to a Pew Research 2018 report, the United States has more  
17 immigrants than any other country in the world; and

18          WHEREAS, San Francisco is recognized as a Sanctuary City and prides itself in being  
19 an ethnically diverse and inclusive community that welcomes and protects people from all  
20 countries; now, therefore, be it

21          RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco recognizes the importance of  
22 the 75th Anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in remembering our history  
23 and not repeating the mistakes of our past; and, be it

24          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes December 17,  
25 2018, as the 75th Anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act.