

1 [Queer and Transgender Asian and Pacific Islanders Week - May 22 through 29, 2021]

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3 **Resolution celebrating Queer and Transgender Asian and Pacific Islanders (QTAPI) and**
4 **declaring May 22 through 29, 2021, as QTAPI Week in the City and County of San**
5 **Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, San Francisco celebrates May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
8 and June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, annually; and

9 WHEREAS, Queer and Transgender Asian and Pacific Islanders (QTAPI) people have
10 experienced, and continue to experience, discrimination and violence and have been
11 impacted by unjust systems, and there has been a long documented history of QTAPI people
12 in the Bay Area including Chin Ling, arrested in Oakland in 1908, Margaret Chung, the first
13 American surgeon of Chinese descent and known for wearing “mannish attire” and pushing
14 for inclusion in the 1940’s, Jackie Mei Ling, dancer and female impersonator whose radical
15 and sexual performances at the intersections of race and gender pushed boundaries in the
16 1940’s, and Rose Bamberger, Filipina and founding member of the Daughters of Bilitis in
17 1955; and

18 WHEREAS, Crystal Jang became the first openly gay Asian lesbian teacher within the
19 San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to coordinate and conduct the first LGBT
20 issues trainings for SFUSD in the 1970’s; Tamara Ching, a transgender, HIV, and sex-work
21 activist known as the “God Mother of Polk Street,” frequented Compton’s Cafeteria in the
22 1960’s. Vince Crisostomo, a gay Chamorro HIV-activist, became the first publicly out HIV-
23 positive Pacific Islander at World AIDS Day in 1991; Canyon Sam became the first Asian to
24 emcee Pride in SF in 1982; and

1 WHEREAS, Steve Lew, a gay Chinese American, emerged as a key organizer,
2 educator, and role model for GAPA Community HIV Project (GCHP), an informal support
3 group for HIV-positive gay Asians; Transwoman Nikki Calma, better known as Tita Aida,
4 became a community icon through her advocacy work and countless fundraisers; Transman
5 Willy Wilkinson, active in HIV work, became a founding board member of GCHP; Chinese
6 American lesbian Helen Zia led the fight for justice for Vincent Chin as the president of
7 American Citizens for Justice (ACJ), the first explicitly Asian American grassroots community
8 advocacy effort with a national scope; Lawrence Wong, the only gay API man elected official
9 in San Francisco, elected as a City College Trustee in 1994 and organized fundraising efforts
10 to open a new Chinatown North Beach campus in 2012; Cecilia Chung, transgender civil
11 rights leader and activist born in Hong Kong, led the efforts in 2013 to make San Francisco
12 the first city in the country to pay for gender reassignment surgery for uninsured transgender
13 patients as an appointed Health Commissioner; and AIDS Activist George Choy, instrumental
14 in bringing LGBT counseling programs into San Francisco public high schools, a longtime
15 GAPA member who passed away in 1993, was honored with a sidewalk plaque in the Castro
16 District's Rainbow Honor Walk in 2014; and

17 WHEREAS, Across the QTAPI spectrum, organizations have existed in the Bay Area
18 for decades, including the Gay Asian Support Group in 1976, Gay Asian Information Network
19 in 1977, Asian American Feminists in 1977, the Gay Asian Association at UC Berkeley in the
20 late 1970's, Asian American Alliance in 1979, Association of Lesbian/Gay Asian in 1981,
21 Trikone in 1986, Asian American Recovery Services in 1987, the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance
22 (now the GLBTQ+ Asian Pacific Alliance) in 1988, Asian Pacific Sisters in 1988, The GAPA
23 Community HIV Project / Living Well Project in 1989, Older Asian Sisters in Solidarity in 1991,
24 Gay Vietnamese Alliance in 1991, South Bay Queer & Asian in 1993, Asian & Pacific Islander
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1 Wellness Center in 1997, The Rice Girls in 1998, and Gay Polynesian Alliance in 1998 (now
2 United Territories Of Pacific Islanders' Alliance (U.T.O.P.I.A.); and

3 WHEREAS, At the turn of the millennium, grassroots organizations responded to
4 continued systems of oppression at multiple levels and newer organizations have formed to
5 support and organize QTAPI people in the Bay Area, creating community based systems for
6 safety and health care and other support for QTAPI people when the city does not meet
7 QTAPI needs, including Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women Transgender Community
8 (APIQWTC) in 1999 founded by Crystal Jang, Koko Lin, and Trinity Ordonas as a new hub for
9 established and new community groups to exchange news and coordinate projects in the San
10 Francisco Bay Area (growing out of the API Lunar New Year Banquet, founded in 1987 by a
11 small group of queer and transgender Asian women); and

12 WHEREAS, APIENC (API Equality Northern California) formed in 2004 as a response
13 to a 6,000 person Chinese Christian anti-marriage-equality rally in San Francisco and has
14 since evolved into an API trans-led organization building people power, Prism Foundation
15 (formerly GAPA Foundation) formed in 2010 in response to a need to provide funding and
16 resources to organizations and student activists creating a strong and positive impact in the
17 API LGBTQ+ community; Parivar Bay Area formed in 2018, co-founded by Anjali Rimi, works
18 to uplift South Asian trans and gender non-conforming people; API Transmasculine Anthology
19 formed in 2019, originating in 2017 during a writing workshop at the first API TransFusion
20 Retreat, seeking to raise visibility of API transmasculine narratives by including a broad range
21 of art and writing that reflects the diversity of our communities; and San Francisco Community
22 Health Center, formerly known as API Wellness, which was established in 1987 to serve the
23 Asian & Pacific Islander Community during the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, in 2018,
24 rebranded as San Francisco Community Health Center to fully encompass the programs and
25 services currently offered; and

1 WHEREAS, The Bay Area QTAPI Coalition was formed on February 7, 2019, to build
2 community, facilitate intergenerational transfer of knowledge, recognize QTAPI historical
3 context and interdependence, and celebrate QTAPI unique cultural heritage and identity; and

4 WHEREAS, The new coalition gathered for a historic collaboration with *When Pigs Fly*
5 *Over the Moon: A QTAPI Gathering* on Friday, March 15, 2019, at Salesforce Tower in San
6 Francisco; and

7 WHEREAS, Founding members of the Bay Area QTAPI Coalition held weekly
8 meetings in January 2019, including many intergenerational QTAPI leaders in the Bay Area
9 such as: Vince Crisostomo, Becca Giang, Jasmin Hoo, Crystal Jang, Nicholas Large,
10 Rowland Mendoza, Kris Mizutani, Michael Trung Nguyen, Jimmy Quach, Chris Romasanta,
11 and Sydney Yeong; and

12 WHEREAS, The Bay Area QTAPI Coalition includes member organizations of the
13 National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), including API Equality Northern
14 California (APIENC), Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women & Transgender Community
15 (APIQWTC), GLBTQ+ Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA), Parivar Bay Area, Prism Foundation,
16 Red Envelope Giving Circle, as well as other LGBTQ Bay Area Organizations including the
17 API Transmasculine Anthology, GLBT Historical Society, San Francisco Community Health
18 Center, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Essence of Mana, North County Outreach, and
19 LGBTQ API night life groups including GAMEBoi SF, and members of the Rice Rockettes, all
20 working under the QTAPI umbrella; and

21 WHEREAS, Michael Trung Nguyen, one of the co-founders of the Bay Area QTAPI
22 Coalition and chair of GAPA, also known as drag performer Juicy Liu Realness, citing the
23 need for Queer and Trans spaces during Lunar New Year celebrations, created a foundational
24 event called *Enter the Rooster* at Strut in the Castro in 2017 as part of her reign as Miss
25 GAPA 2016 with her Mr. GAPA 2016, Jeffry Arcam; and

1 WHEREAS, As a follow up event, *New Year, New Tricks* was produced at Oasis in San
2 Francisco in 2018 with Mr. GAPA 2017 Danny Chung through a collaboration with GAPA and
3 Prism Foundation; and

4 WHEREAS, Both Queer Lunar New Year celebrations became the precursor Lunar
5 New Year events to the Bay Area QTAPI Coalition; and

6 WHEREAS, Nicholas Large, also known as drag performer Kristi Yummykochi, another
7 co-founder of the Bay Area QTAPI Coalition and one of the Rice Rockettes, an all API Drag
8 Troupe in San Francisco, citing the need for more than just a drag and talent showcase,
9 reimagined the annual Lunar New Year celebration as an opportunity for Bay Area
10 organizations serving the LGBTQ+ and AAPI community to gather in one space to encourage
11 community involvement, facilitate an intergenerational transfer of knowledge, showcase our
12 community talents, help people find an historic context for themselves, and raise funds for the
13 API Pride Pavilion; and

14 WHEREAS, With Kristi and Juicy co-hosting with Mr. GAPA 2018, Christo Roma, and
15 through their passionate advocacy and organizing, the *When Pigs Fly Over the Moon* event
16 attracted over 700 attendees and raised over \$2,000 in funds to support QTAPI organizations
17 at the API Pride Pavilion, mobilizing 14 different organizations to celebrate QTAPI identity at
18 Salesforce Tower, including an impromptu performance by the GAPA Men’s Chorus; and

19 WHEREAS, The annual Queer and Trans API Lunar New Year celebrations have
20 grown in attendance, creating a one-of-a-kind event that celebrates Queer and Trans API
21 identity in the Bay Area and beyond, featuring archival content showcasing the rich QTAPI
22 history in the Bay Area, a rich legacy of celebrating, organizing, and fighting to create change,
23 while also showcasing QTAPI artistic expression through drag performances, cultural dances,
24 singing, and community building; and

1 WHEREAS, The first known event where multiple QTAPI organizations co-produced an
2 event was Rice Bowl in 1995 by APIQWTC, GAPA, and Trikone as a way for LGBTQ API
3 people to mix, mingle, and build community with each other, and Rice Bowl came back in
4 2015, led by APIENC; and

5 WHEREAS, The Bay Area QTAPI Coalition produced *Leaping Rats, Hidden Histories*
6 on February 29, 2020, at Origin SF, with the help of Mr. GAPA 2019 SNJV, organizing and
7 facilitating an intergenerational knowledge transfer from the veterans of the QTAPI movement
8 in the Bay Area to the up and coming present and future organizers as well as amazing
9 performances by Parivar and Miss GAPA 2019 Mocha Fapalatte, the venue secured by
10 GAMEBOI and an after party with Hunnies and Hot Sauce; and

11 WHEREAS, The Bay Area QTAPI Coalition produced *Ox Talks* on February 13, 2021,
12 a celebration of our QTAPI Coalition, holding space for the QTAPI community virtually to build
13 support and outreach and featuring the first ever State of the QTAPI Coalition, a series of
14 speeches from members of the Bay Area QTAPI Coalition; and

15 WHEREAS, The Bay Area QTAPI Coalition quickly mobilized and responded to the
16 murders of six Asian women in three massage parlors in Atlanta with two direct actions,
17 Castro to Chinatown: an LGBTQ+ Solidarity March on March 21, 2021, led by GAPA, and
18 Rally Against AAPI Hate on April 3, 2021, led by Prism Foundation, both events each
19 mobilizing over a thousand protestors in our community; and

20 WHEREAS, QTAPI Week is a time when organizers demonstrate the strength and
21 resilience of the Asian American community in the face of continued violence as well as pride
22 in identity as part of the LGBTQ+ community; and

23 WHEREAS, During QTAPI Week, member organizations of the Bay Area QTAPI
24 Coalition will host member meetings, networking activities, capacity building events, and
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1 supportive facilitated conversations that further the work of the QTAPI movement in the San
2 Francisco Bay Area; and

3 WHEREAS, The Bay Area QTAPI Coalition continues to grow and respond to the
4 issues facing the QTAPI community - a contribution deserving of the highest recognition and
5 honor from the City and County of San Francisco; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors declares May 22, 2021,
7 through May 29, 2021, as the First QTAPI Week in the City and County of San Francisco;
8 and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will support a
10 strong and organized Queer & Transgender Asian and Pacific Islander community, promote
11 QTAPI Pride throughout San Francisco, and will encourage residents of San Francisco to
12 participate in QTAPI Week activities.

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