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February 6, 2024

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
70 W. Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Subject: Support Item 31 related to Lunar New Year

Dear President Ellenberg,

I am writing today to urge you and the Board of Supervisors to support Supervisor Lee's referral to officially recognize the Lunar New Year as an official county holiday. As you know, Lunar New Year is the most important holiday in Vietnam, South Korea, and other Asian American and Pacific Islander countries.

As a joint author of AB 2596 (Low), legislation that made California the first state in the nation to recognize Lunar New Year as an official state holiday, I wholeheartedly support this important acknowledgment and recognition. Santa Clara County is fortunate to be home to one of the largest Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the United States. San José, the city I have proudly represented in the State Legislature since 2016, includes Little Saigon and the Vietnam Town area, boasting the largest Vietnamese American communities in the U.S. and outside of Vietnam.

For the Vietnamese community here in our county, many Lunar New Year festivals or Tết in Vietnamese culture have been hosted to signify the meaningful message of community, hope, happiness, and renewal. As a member of the AAPI community, I always admire the unity and spirit this auspicious season brings to our constituents in Santa Clara County. It was the reason why I advocated for Lunar New Year and Tết alongside my supporting colleagues in the State Legislature for state recognition of this festive season.

Recognizing Lunar New Year as an official holiday in Santa Clara County is long overdue. Following in the footsteps of California's recent acknowledgment, it's crucial that our county embraces this cultural celebration.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ash Kalra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ash" and the last name "Kalra" clearly distinguishable.

Ash Kalra
State Assemblymember, 25th District