

31. Approve referral to Administration to report to the Board on May 7, 2024 with options for consideration relating to the viability and costs associated with declaring Lunar New Year a County holiday. (Lee) (ID# 24-4250)

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California State Senate

SENATOR
DAVE CORTESE
FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

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LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
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February 2, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 W. Hedding Street
10th Floor, East Wing
San Jose, CA

Dear Board President Susan Ellenberg (District 4), Supervisor Sylvia Arenas (District 1), Supervisor Cindy Chavez (District 2), Supervisor Otto Lee (District 3), and Supervisor Joe Simitian (District 5):

Each year, thousands of Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander residents across Santa Clara County join in Lunar New Year festivities marking the end of winter and ushering in the start of spring. Celebrated as far back as 3,500 years ago, the Lunar New Year – also referred to as the Spring Festival – is a way to honor one's ancestors and bless harvests at the turn of the year. Many Asian countries such as China, Vietnam, Korea and others, now celebrate Lunar New Year as a weeklong vacation holiday permitting many to travel back home to visit with their family.

As a county that prides itself on recognizing, equitably investing in, and living out its values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, it is important to continue to embrace and protect a culture's long held customs and traditions. In doing so, we are able to promote greater cultural acceptance rooted in mutual compassion, empathy, and understanding for one another. Still reeling from the negative effects of anti-Asian and Asian American racial animus and prejudice in a post-COVID 19 world, designating Lunar New Year as an official county holiday ensures we set the course bending the arc toward justice. And there is local precedent. The San Francisco Unified School District, the City College of San Francisco, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and even the State of California through Assembly Bill 2596 (Low) have all approved and implemented Lunar New Year as a holiday in one form or another. With an estimated 41.4% Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander resident population, it is time the County of Santa Clara does too.

It is for these reasons, and more, that I am in full support of Supervisor Otto Lee's Board Referral Agenda Item #31 relating to options for consideration on the viability and costs associated with declaring Lunar New Year a County holiday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Cortese".

Dave Cortese
Senator, District 15
California State Senate

From: [Clay Volino](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2/6 Agenda Item #31 (LF#24-4250)
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2024 1:40:44 PM

Hi there,

Please find the below statement from Asm. Evan Low regarding Lunar New Year:

Lunar New Year is one of the most important holidays in China, Vietnam, South Korea, and other Asian countries. An official recognition by the County of Lunar New Year would help acknowledge the diversity and cultural significance that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community brings to Santa Clara County. Santa Clara County should join the state of California in recognizing Lunar New Year as a holiday. In the State Assembly, I wrote the bill to enshrine Lunar New Year as a state holiday, and I hope the Board of Supervisors will do the same.

From: [VIVO Board of Directors](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Cc: [Supervisor.Lee](#); [Nguyen.The-vu](#); [Cao, Daniel](#); [Tam Nguyen](#); [Bao Trieu](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting 2/6 Agenda Item #31 (LF#24-4250) (Lunar New Year for County Holiday)
Date: Friday, February 2, 2024 10:12:45 AM

Dear SCC Board of Supervisors,

I am learning that there will be item #31 being considered by the Board in the coming meeting of Feb 6th, 2024:

- * **Agenda item #31 (LF#24-4250):**
- * **to declare Lunar New Year a County holiday**

On behalf of the Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation (VIVO), its Board of directors and its Staffs, and myself, residing and working in San Jose and Santa Clara County,

- * I would like to express my wholeheartedly support for this Agenda Item.
- * I would like to strongly ask for your consideration in voting **YES** for this Agenda Item.

Thank you and Regards,

--

Bao Trieu
VIVO, President & CEO



Moorpark Office
Gordon N. Chan Community Services Center
2400 Moorpark Ave. Suite #300
San Jose, CA 95128

February 2, 2024

The Honorable Susan Ellenberg, President
and Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street
East Wing, 10th Floor
San José, CA 95110

Subject: Support for Agenda Item 31 (Lee)

Dear President Ellenberg and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), I am writing to urge the Board of Supervisors to approve Supervisor Lee's referral to the Administration with options for consideration regarding the viability and costs associated with declaring Lunar New Year a County Holiday.

AACI is a community-based nonprofit organization that primarily offers health, behavioral health, and wellness services to low-income communities and communities of color in Santa Clara County. As an organization founded in 1973 to address the unmet needs of Southeast Asian refugees resettled in the area, we recognize the importance of culturally specific holidays as a means of celebrating the richness and diversity of Silicon Valley. Lunar New Year is one such holiday, widely celebrated by Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean communities, and is particularly significant amongst Asian Americans. The Holiday is also popular among various local organizations and groups that host annual events, bringing together many community members in celebration.

In Santa Clara County, Asian Americans account for 41.4% of the population. As of January 2024, nearly a third of the County's 24,000+ employees (coded and Extra Help) identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander. An official recognition by the County of Lunar New Year would help acknowledge the diversity and cultural significance that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community brings to Santa Clara County, similar to the County's holiday observances for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Cesar Chavez Day, and Juneteenth. A possible commemoration of the Lunar New Year as an official County holiday would be especially meaningful considering recent waves of hatred and violence toward Asian Americans that have escalated since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Moorpark Office

Gordon N. Chan Community Services Center
2400 Moorpark Ave. Suite #300
San Jose, CA 95128

AACI is proud to support and amplify efforts to declare Lunar New Year a holiday in Santa Clara County and is confident that such an acknowledgment would contribute positively to the safety, belonging, and meaningful integration of Asian American and Pacific Islander community members in the area. Silicon Valley has a proud history of embracing and celebrating diversity in our communities. We thank the Board of Supervisors for considering our request and look forward to continuing to work together toward creating a more inclusive and equitable community.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Villaverde, MPH
Director of Advocacy
AACI

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES

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 and last names clearly distinguishable.

Ash Kalra
State Assemblymember, 25th District

From: [Alyssa Dulong](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for BOS Meeting 2/6/24
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 10:15:08 AM

Good morning,

My name is Alyssa. I'm a nurse at VMC and on the RNPA board.

I wish to bring to your attention two important issues.

First, I am in support of Supervisor Lee's referral of Lunar New Year holiday to honor the Asian people of our community. I have noticed since my family has immigrated from Vietnam to this valley that this community has been thriving over the last 40 - 50 years. The Asian community is an intricate part of this society. It would be a prestigious recognition to celebrate this lunar new year of health, prosperity, peace for all as an official holiday.

Secondly, I wish to bring to your attention the need for reform of the timekeeping and payroll system for hospital staff. Nurses often wait many pay periods to many months for a correction to their paychecks. This is money owed to them for hours they have already worked. Not only is this not fair, but it's wrong. Timekeeping staff make up their own interpretation of our MOU and it's not consistent across departments or hospitals. Some nurses get paid for differentials. However, others working the same shift, but under a different timekeeper may not. Please help us get paid what we should. This isn't asking for more, it's only asking for what is correct and in a timely manner.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Dulong, RN

From: [Zahra Billoo](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Cc: [Musa Tariq](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting Lunar New Year as a County Holiday
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 11:28:08 AM

Dear SCC Board of Supervisors,

My name is Zahra Billoo, and I write on behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA).

We are supportive of Supervisor Lee's recommendation that the Lunar New Year be recognized as a county holiday. We've seen great strides at the state level in this direction, various entities in San Francisco have begun to recognize it, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board has already added it as a paid holiday.

This is an important opportunity for Santa Clara County to lead the way, recognizing and celebrating the diversity of its community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Zahra

Zahra Billoo

Executive Director

Council on American-Islamic Relations

San Francisco Bay Area Office

3160 De La Cruz Blvd., Ste. 110

Santa Clara, CA 95054

408.986.9874 | ca.cair.com/sfba

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TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION CAUCUS

February 5, 2024

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

Re: Lunar New Year as a County Holiday

To the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors:

As Chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus and author of Assembly Bill 2596, which made Lunar New Year a state holiday in California, I urge the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to support the referral to declare Lunar New Year a county holiday.

Recognizing Lunar New Year as a county holiday would not only lift up Asian Americans who have been experiencing a sweeping record of anti-Asian hate but would also send a powerful message of inclusion and embracement of the Asian American community and culture. The creation of this holiday would recognize the cultural and historical significance of Lunar New Year and acknowledge Asian Americans and all individuals throughout the world who celebrate this significant occasion.

For these reasons, I am proud to support Supervisor Lee's referral to declare Lunar New Year a county holiday. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Low", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Evan Low
Chair, California Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus
Assemblymember, 26th District – San José/Silicon Valley

REQUEST TO SPEAK FORM

This document is a public record, subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.
This document may also be added to the meeting materials posted on the County website.

If you wish to address the Board, Committee, or Commission, please fill out this form and place it in the container provided.

DATE: 2/6/24

AGENDA ITEM NO. 31

For Issue ☒ Against Issue ☐ Neutral ☐ * Written comments for the record only ☐

NAME (OPTIONAL): Donald Chan, MD Decline to State ☐

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ORGANIZATION (OPTIONAL): Santa Clara Valley Medical Center

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): _____

PLEASE PRINT

*If you want to provide written comments for the record only, and you do NOT wish to address the Board, Committee, or Commission orally, please write comments below:

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DATE: 2/6/24

AGENDA ITEM NO. 31, 32

For Issue ☒ Against Issue ☐ Neutral ☐ * Written comments for the record only ☐

NAME (OPTIONAL): HA TRIEU Decline to State ☐
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ORGANIZATION (OPTIONAL): THE UNITED VIETNAMESE AMERICAN OF NORTHERN CA
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): _____
PLEASE PRINT

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DATE: 2/6/2024

AGENDA ITEM NO. 31

For Issue ☒

Against Issue ☐

Neutral ☐

* Written comments for the record only ☐

NAME (OPTIONAL): LONG NGUYEN Decline to State ☐

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ORGANIZATION (OPTIONAL): VIVO (VIETNAMESE VOLUNTARY FOUNDATION)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): SAN JOSE CA

PLEASE PRINT

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DATE: 02/16/24

AGENDA ITEM NO. 31

For Issue ☐

Against Issue ☐

Neutral ☐

* Written comments for the record only ☐

NAME (OPTIONAL): Nguyễn Thị Cúc Decline to State ☐

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ORGANIZATION (OPTIONAL): Hội Đồng Hương Phường Ninh Thuận

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): 570 Hayes St # 421. SF. CA 95112

PLEASE PRINT

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DATE: 2/6/2024

AGENDA ITEM NO. 31

For Issue ☒ Against Issue ☐ Neutral ☐ * Written comments for the record only ☐

NAME (OPTIONAL): Anna Hoang Decline to State ☐

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ORGANIZATION (OPTIONAL): Hội Ai Hưu MQH Bore CA

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): 6890 Sessions Dr San Jose CA 95119

PLEASE PRINT

*If you want to provide written comments for the record only, and you do NOT wish to address the Board, Committee, or Commission orally, please write comments below:

Thank you board of supervisors Otto Lee & board of supervisors
Cindy Chavez đã công nhận nghị Quyết

REQUEST TO SPEAK FORM

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If you wish to address the Board, Committee, or Commission, please fill out this form and place it in the container provided.

DATE: 2/6/2024

AGENDA ITEM NO. 31

For Issue ☒

Against Issue ☐

Neutral ☐

* Written comments for the record only ☐

NAME (OPTIONAL): VAN LE Decline to State ☐

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ORGANIZATION (OPTIONAL): Trustee of East Side

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): San Jose

PLEASE PRINT

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County of Santa Clara
Supervisory District Three



24-4250

DATE: February 6, 2024 (Item No. {{item.number}})

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Otto Lee, Supervisor

SUBJECT: Lunar New Year as a County Holiday

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve referral to Administration to report to the Board on May 7, 2024 with options for consideration relating to the viability and costs associated with declaring Lunar New Year a County holiday. (Lee)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial costs associated with this referral are currently unknown since County Administration has not implemented Lunar New Year as an official holiday.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Lunar New Year is one of the most important holidays in China, Vietnam, South Korea and one of the most widely celebrated among Asian Americans. This holiday is also a popular one among local organizations and groups that host annual events, bringing together many community members in celebration.

In Santa Clara County, Asian Americans account for 41.4% of the population. As of January 2024, nearly a third of the County's 24,000+ employees (coded and Extra Help) identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander.

An official recognition by the County of Lunar New Year would help acknowledge the diversity and cultural significance that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community brings to Santa Clara County, similar to the County's holiday observances for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Cesar Chavez Day and Juneteenth. A possible commemoration of Lunar New Year as an official County holiday would be especially meaningful considering recent waves of hatred and violence toward Asian Americans that has escalated since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND

Other municipalities in California, including the state itself, have made strides in officially recognizing Lunar New Year in their respective jurisdictions:

- In 2006, the San Francisco Unified School District Board of Trustees approved a

resolution that made the holiday an annual event even if the Lunar New Year falls on a weekend.

- City College of San Francisco observes Lunar New Year as a day off for the college community. California education code specifies the holidays that community colleges can celebrate, and the two required days in February are Lincoln Day and Washington Day, are usually combined into a single holiday (Presidents' Day). This holiday thus frees up a day for another celebration, and the college has opted to celebrate Presidents Day and the Lunar New Year. Locally, the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District has added Lunar New Year as an official district holiday.
- In 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 2596 (Low), declaring Lunar New Year to be a state holiday. But the designation in California is largely symbolic because the law as enacted didn't make the holiday a paid day off for state employees. Employees of the state can only use eight hours of vacation, annual leave, or compensating time off in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit to observe the Lunar New Year.
- Last year, Assemblymember Phil Ting and City College of San Francisco Board of Trustees President Alan Wong announced a bill that would give community colleges the option to make Lunar New Year a state holiday. AB 264 would give students the opportunity to celebrate Lunar New Year without missing class. The bill offers community colleges the flexibility to observe Lunar New Year as a state holiday without increasing the number of days schools are closed. This means that community colleges could come up with solutions like combining Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays into one holiday and adding Lunar New Year as another holiday. Governor Newsom signed AB 264 into law.
- Similarly, the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board unanimously voted to recognize Lunar New Year as a paid holiday. Staff also recommended that Valley Water provide each employee one extra vacation day to be added to each employee's vacation balance in lieu of not receiving the holiday that year for Fiscal Year 2023 in observance of Lunar New Year.

In 2020, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution proclaiming June 19 of each year as Juneteenth Day and a County holiday. Juneteenth Day commemorates and marks the effective end of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865, almost two and one-half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The additional cost of implementing a holiday was estimated to be approximately \$2.3 million and subjected to change depending on staffing required and assignments made by operating departments on a given holiday.