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Assembly California Legislature

KANSEN CHU

朱感生

CHAIR: ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT,
SPORTS, TOURISM, AND INTERNET MEDIA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT



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TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

APPOINTMENTS
COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Oct 24 Council Agenda Item 17-094

Dear Mayor Liccardo and members of the San Jose City Council:

As the State Assemblymember representing the 25 Assembly District and former San Jose Councilmember of District 4, I am writing in opposition to any change or modification that will take away land that has already been dedicated for Iris Chang Park.

When I served on San Jose City Council, I worked closely with the Chang family to name the park in the memory of the late Iris Chang. The proposed well at the site of Iris Chang Park would involve redesigning the park with less public space and trees without sufficient outreach to the neighboring communities. Opposed by many residents and community leaders, the planned well negatively impacts the quality of life for people that live in the area

The current plans for the park negates years of work by the San Jose Parks and Recreation Department and community leaders that allows North San Jose to benefit from beautiful open space named in the memory of the life of Iris Chang.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the planned well and ensure that the land remains part of Iris Chang Park. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (408) 262-2501.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Kansen Chu.

KANSEN CHU
Assemblymember, 25th AD



From: >

Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 1:11 PM

To: City Clerk; District4

Subject: No Well For Microsoft at Our Park

This neighborhood will not allow the city to put a 2500 square foot well in Iris Chang Park to provide cooling water for the new Microsoft server farm on McCarthy Drive.

Big business does not have the right to take our resources and the city should work on this community's welfare.

We voted for you and can easily vote you out and remove you from our offices for conflict of interest and other offenses.

Best Regards,

York Huang

From: Lillian Sing < >

Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 1:59 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District1; District2; district3@sanjose.gov; District4; District5; District 6; district7@sanjose.gov; District8; District9; District 10; City Clerk

Subject: Referring File # 17-094, Item 10.2

Dear Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and Members of San Jose Council:

We write this letter with a sense of urgency to ask you to do whatever is necessary to expedite the construction of the **Iris Chang Park**, approved two years ago by Resolution of the San Jose City Council and spearheaded by former Council member Kansen Chu who is now California Assemblyman. The **Iris Chang Park** is named in honor of the late Iris Chang, author of the *Rape of Nanjing*, an award winning documentary of one of the most horrific period in World War II history when the Japanese Imperial Army murdered over 300,000 civilians and raped over 20,000 women and girls in a matter of three months from November 1937 to January 1938. The events of the *Rape of Nanjing* are now permanently memorialized in UNESCO's Memory of Registry and commemorated every year on December 13 in China and throughout the world's Chinese community. The lesson is: We must not forget history, lest it will be repeated.

We were all very excited when we first learned that San Jose will have a park to honor Iris. But we are very disappointed to learn that the construction of the park is delayed over a proposed plan by the SJ Municipal Water System that involves a well to be dug on the planned Iris Chang Park.

This is simply unacceptable and suggests a lack of commitment and failed vision to honor the Resolution to remember Iris, who is a heroine in the eyes of the peace community throughout the world. The structural planning cannot usurp an established goal of providing a park for San Jose residents while commemorating an important lesson in WWII history. Justice delayed is justice denied.

We urge you to vote in support of removing any impediments to the building of the **Iris Chang Park** and immediately commence the construction according to the plans submitted and approved. We further urge that you set a time line for the completion of the planned park and hold the agencies in charge accountable for a timely construction of this valuable park.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours truly,

Julie Tang and Lillian Sing, Ret'd Judges

Co-chairs of the "Comfort Women" Justice Coalition

Lillian Sing

Julie Tang

From: Charles Shao <>
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 7:52 PM
To: District4; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo
Cc: City Clerk; Ying-Ying Chang
Subject: Re: Iris Chang Park

Dear Honorable Councilman Diep,

Many thanks for your speedy, sincere, and thorough response. I am highly impressed by the efficiency of your office.

My colleagues and I firmly believe, under any circumstances, you would use the most cogent arguments to help us in this regard. Thank you again.

Respectfully,

Charles Shao

From: District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; charles shao
Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Ying-Ying Chang <>
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 3:40 PM
Subject: Re: Iris Chang Park

Dear Mr. Shao,

The future Iris Chang Park would be located in North San José, the district that I represent. I assure you that nobody is pushing to build a well on the park site, as that would require revisions to the plan and a return to the planning commission for approval. This is the potential delay you speak of.

It is obvious, as you say, that the "water well can be located anywhere without losing its function" but if the City really could put up a well anywhere it wanted (e.g. on private property), there would not be an issue. The reality is that this well is very much needed, but the City has limited options in where it can locate it.

Nobody wants to put it on the park site, but that at least is one of the places that the City can do it. My office is working with various city departments to look at alternatives, but I want to underscore the fact that finding an alternative site is not as easy as you imagine.

We are making every effort to not place the well on the site, and I hope to have good news to report soon.

Be well,

Lan

Correspondence with this email account is read by Councilmember Lan Diep and/or his staff. In the course of your exchange with the District 4 office, you may receive responses from multiple people.

From: Charles Shao <

Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 11:24 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

Cc: District1; District2; district3@sanjose.gov; District4; District5; District 6; district7@sanjose.gov; District8; District9; District 10; City Clerk; Ying-Ying Chang

Subject: Iris Chang Park

Dear Honorable Mayor,

Around two years ago, the entire Chinese-American community in the San Jose area and the San Francisco Bay were extremely excited when it was announced that a park would be constructed in San Jose in honoring of Iris Chang because of her invaluable work. We are now so disappointed, after this long wait, to hear that a further delay is looming in the air due to a proposed construction of a water well in the lot reserved for the park. This water well, if it is constructed, will not only further delay the construction of the park but also destroy the aesthetic aspect of the park. The water well can be located anywhere without losing its function. There is no good reason to place that water well inside the perimeter of the park reservation.

On behalf of Alliance for Preserving the Truth of Sino-Japanese War, I would like to share with you that the successful building of this park is sentimentally important to our community. Please do everything possible in your capacity to move this water well to somewhere else and lend your staunchest support to the earliest creation of this park.

By the way, Alliance for Preserving the Truth of Sino-Japanese War is a San Francisco Bay Area based grassroots, non-profit organization established in 1992, dedicated to the public education of war crimes during WWII.

Thank you for your attention!

Respectfully,

Charles J. Shao
President, Alliance for Preserving the Truth of Sino-Japanese War

From: Ying-Ying Chang <>

Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2017 3:39 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10; City Clerk

Subject: Please remove Iris Chang Park from the list of potential sites of a well

Date: October 22, 2017

To: Mayor Sam Liccardo; Charles "Chappie" Jones, District 1; Sergio Jimenez, District 2; Raul Peralez, District 3; Lan Diep, District 4; Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco, District 5; Devora "Dev" Davis, District 6; Tam Nguyen, District 7; Sylvia Arenas, District 8; Donald Rocha, District 9; Jonny Khamis, District 10

CC To: City Clerk (Referring File #: 17-094, Item 10.2. Please put into package as public record

Subject: Please remove Iris Chang Park from the list of potential sites of a well

Dear Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and San Jose City Council members:

I have written two letters previously concerning the site of water well for Microsoft project involving Iris Chang Park. From the Memorandum of October 18, 2017 to Honorable Mayor and City Council indicated that SJ Municipal Water System has not identified the site of the well, but Iris Chang Park is one of the potential sites. Herein I like to point out that **Iris Chang Park cannot be considered as one of the potential sites for digging a well. It should be removed from the list of potential sites of a well. The reasons are**

1) **Iris Chang Park was lag behind a year already.** If the Park were chosen for the site of the well, the redesign of the Park would **further delay the opening of the Park which is unacceptable for the neighborhood community;**

2) **The presence of a structure of the well on the land of Iris Chang Park would destroy the aesthetic aspect of the Park.** The Park was designed by the famous Architect Richard Deutsch. **Altering the original design of the Park would show disrespect and an insult to the artist and this is unacceptable;**

3) Iris Chang is internationally known historian, author and human right activist. **Iris Chang Park will be a potential international sightseeing hotspot.** I have been asked by many Asian travelers as well as U. S. citizens for the date of opening of the Park. **The delay of the Park would not serve the need of San Jose City as San Jose has rigorously tried to promote its image internationally.**

I sincerely request that Iris Chang Park should be removed from the list of consideration for the site of a well. Please encourage the related City departments to finish the work of the Park as soon as possible. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Ying-Ying Chang
425 Camille Circle, #11

From: Ying-Ying Chang <>

Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2017 4:37 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10; City Clerk

Subject: Chinese Newspaper World Journal Published Our Community Concerns

Date: October 22, 2017

To: Mayor Sam Liccardo; Charles "Chappie" Jones, District 1; Sergio Jimenez, District 2; Raul Peralez, District 3; Lan Diep, District 4; Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco, District 5; Devora "Dev" Davis, District 6; Tam Nguyen, District 7; Sylvia Arenas, District 8; Donald Rocha, District 9; Jonny Khamis, District 10

CC To: City Clerk (Referring File #: 17-094, Item 10.2. Please put into package as public record

Subject: Chinese newspaper World Journal published our community concerns

Dear Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and San Jose City Council members:

Just let you know one of major Chinese newspapers in the Bay Area., World Journal, published a news article on October 20, 2017 about the concerns of our neighborhood community involving the potential delay of Iris Chang Park due to digging a well. The article is in Chinese, but if you click the link below, you will see the two photos included in the article: One photo is the present appearance of Iris Chang Park site and the second photo is the art design of the entrance of the Park by famous artist Richard Deutsch.

<http://www.worldjournal.com/5235666/article-%E6%B0%B4%E4%BA%95%E5%BD%B1%E9%9F%BF->

From: Mike Bertram <

Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2017 9:01 PM

To: City Clerk; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10

Cc: Jean Marlowe

Subject: Oct 24 Council Agenda Item 17-094

Honorable Council Members,

I am writing as the representative for the River Oaks Neighborhood Association. The association was formed to protect the interests of the North San Jose community along River Oak Parkway and make sure the San Jose city government is aware of our concerns.

The River Oaks Neighborhood Association objects to the consideration of Iris Chang Park as a possible location for the well associated with the Microsoft development covered by agenda item 17-094. We request delay of approval of the agenda item until a site for the required well has been determined. Approval of the agenda item before identifying the well location could lock in impacts to Iris Chang Park before there has been any community input.

To many times our community has been told we are “to late” in expressing our concerns and that key decisions have already been made. We are hoping by getting involved at this early point we can make sure the interest of our community are protected.

It is our understanding that progress on the park has already been impacted by the potential of a well on the site. This is unfair to the community. There has been no out reach to see how the community feels about this. We have asked for information about the size and location of the well and have been provided nothing. We’ve heard from different sources that the impact could be anywhere from 200 to 2,500 square feet. We feel decisions being made about the fate of our park behind closed doors without any regard for the community.

We request the following from the council:

- Delay the agenda item approval until a well site is selected
- A full examination of well site options with public disclosure
- Consideration of alternative cooling options
- Community outreach BEFORE decisions are made about Iris Chang Park

Michael Bertram

Vice President River Oaks Neighborhood Association

From: Paul Keane < >

Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2017 9:17 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; City Clerk; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10

Cc: Eamonn Kerley

Subject: Re: Agenda Item 17-094, October 24th Council meeting

Dear Honorable San Jose Mayor and honorable San Jose Councilmen:

We are Paul Keane and Eamonn Kerley, residents of Parkside and Millbrook in North San Jose. Firstly, we would like to say that our neighborhood is very grateful to all of you who voted unanimously in 2015 to approve the new park named after our neighbor Iris Chang.

We wanted to discuss with you the progress of Iris Chang Park, on which our Resident's groups have worked closely with Department of Park and Recreation in planning and designing since 2015.

The park was scheduled to open this year, but unfortunately it has been delayed due to some soil problems – as such, the residents of North San Jose are anxiously awaiting the completion of the park, given the delays are now approaching the one-year mark.

Recently, it has emerged that the land designated for Iris Chang Park has been associated with the new Microsoft project located at the north side of Highway 237. We are told that the City of San Jose Municipal Water System has considered plans to dig a well at the site of Iris Chang Park. We do not understand why the Municipal Water System has thought of Iris Chang Park as an appropriate location to site a well.

In Page 14 of the EIR appendix the following is stated:

"The City has required, as a condition of approval for the project, the purchase and dedication of a 2,500 square foot property for SJMWS's future construction of a potable water well. This agrees with the 2015 UWMP plan Table 6-8 for future water projects to support future demands by the installation of groundwater wells in the NSJ/Alviso service area."

As we understand it, the EIR did not specifically say the well has to be located in Iris Chang Park; and it does seem that there are plenty of sites elsewhere in the general North San Jose or Alviso area.

Being a layman man lacking expertise in the characteristics of water sources, it does seem dis-intuitive to place 3 wells so close to each other – is this not a case of *"placing all eggs in one basket"*, in that if there is any future incident that affects one well, then would all 3 not be impacted?

If the project needs quality water, and the City of San Jose are comfortable locating such in this area, it does seem there are more logical options, including but not limited to:

-- Liaise with the Santa Clara Water District to site the new well on Coyote Creek Trail, similar to Well's Ovation Ct #2-785 and Ovation Ct #1-785.
-- Liaise with the owners of the vacant lot south-east of Iris Chang Park, between Epic Way and Coyote Creek Trail, to locate the well on land that has not been used in many years.

In this manner, one expects that any proposed new well should be able to tap the same water table as that beneath Iris Chang Park, without impacting existing plans for Iris Chang Park.

We would have expected that a large Industrial project such as this would have sufficient resources to identify a specific water source, without driving what appears, for want of better words, a "land-grab" of land that has significant meaning for the residents of North San Jose.

At face value, there appears no logical reason why Iris Chang Park would be the preferred location to site a well. The change of the land use, even only a small portion of the Park, will effectively change the approved design of the park. We are told that this would require a re-approval of the Park, with further approval cycles potentially delaying the opening of the Park for another 9-12 months.

Since the Park has been already delayed a year, and the neighborhood is patiently awaiting its completion, this would appear an unnecessary and unfair burden to both the Department of Park and Recreation and the Residents of North San Jose.

In closing, we would note that we are disappointed that conversations related to modifying and appropriating a portion of Iris Chang Park have taken place without the specific involvement of the River Oaks community.

We sincerely request that you either:

- A) Direct the exclusion of Iris Chang Park from any future consideration as a Well Site location associated with the Microsoft project, or
- B) Alternatively delay the agenda item approval until a Well Site location is selected.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Keane
Eamonn Kerley

From: behalf of Ignatius Ding <t>

Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 1:41 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

Cc: Dr. Ying-Ying Chang; District1; District2; district3@sanjose.gov; District4; District5; District 6; district7@sanjose.gov; District8; District9; District 10; City Clerk

Subject: Iris Chang Memorial Park (Referring File #: 17-094, Item 10.2. Please put into package as public record)

To: Mayor Sam Liccardo; Charles “Chappie” Jones, District 1; Sergio Jimenez, District 2; Raul Peralez, District 3; Lan Diep, District 4; Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco, District 5; Devora ”Dev” Davis, District 6; Tam Nguyen, District 7; Sylvia Arenas, District 8; Donald Rocha, District 9; Jonny Khamis, District 10

Cc: City Clerk (Referring File #: 17-094, Item 10.2. Please put into package as public record)

Cc: local media

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors and the member organizations of the [**Global Alliance for Preserving the History of WWII in Asia**](#) (a.k.a. the **Global Alliance**), an international coalition of more than 40 chapters worldwide, regarding the delay of the opening of the ***Iris Chang Memorial Park*** in San Jose.

The **Global Alliance**, based in the Bay Area, was founded in 1994 and is one of the largest Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) of Asian descent outside of Asia. The late author and human rights activist Iris Chang was a co-founder of our organization.

We all were extremely pleased with the announcement two years ago that a park would be designated and constructed in San Jose to honor Iris Chang. Our excitement has now turned into a huge disappointment in learning that a further delay due to a proposed construction of a water well in the space exclusively reserved for the park. This water well, if it is constructed, will not only further

delay the construction of the park but would also likely require further reconfiguration and design of the park.

The water well can be located anywhere without losing its function. There is no good reason to place that water well inside the perimeter of this designated park space, given the fact that the city has not thoroughly looked for alternative locations for this needed well. In fact, the proposal location is actually too close to two other existing wells. An additional well would only accelerate the depletion of ground water in this neighborhood.

On behalf of the **Global Alliance**, I must stress that the successful building of this park is very important to our community. Please do everything possible in your capacity to move this water well to somewhere else and lend your support to the earliest creation of the ***Iris Chang Memorial Park***.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Respectfully,

Ignatius Y. Ding

Executive Vice President, [***Global Alliance for Preserving the History of WWII in Asia***](#)

From: Ying-Ying Chang <>

Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 8:19 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10; City Clerk

Cc: GAbordcomm; B.C. ALPHA

Subject: Fw: RE: [GAmembers] Urgent request to build Iris Chang Park in San Jose

Dear Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and Members of San Jose Council:

Re-send the following letter due to previous email address errors.

The letter referring File # 17-094, Item 10.2

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: '

>

Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 08:08:42 AM

Subject: RE: [GAmembers] Urgent request to build Iris Chang Park in San Jose

Dear Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and Members of San Jose Council:

We are in full support of Judges Julie Tang and Lillian Sing for their appeal to you for expediting the construction of the **Iris Chang Park**. The reasons are well-spelt out in their email below. The Iris Chang Park will not only be a peace & reconciliation symbol for San Jose but will also attract peace-loving tourists from all over the world . We look forward to visiting the Park in your city in the near future.

Thekla Lit

President of B.C. ALPHA & Co-chair of Canada ALPHA (Association for Learning & Preserving the History of WWII in Asia)

From:

Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 10:54 AM

To: mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov

Subject: [GAmembers] Urgent request to build Iris Chang Park in San Jose
October 21, 2017

Dear Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and Members of San Jose Council:

We write this letter with a sense of urgency in response to the World Journal article published today on the delay to the Iris Chang Park. We urge you to do whatever is necessary to expedite the construction of the **Iris Chang Park**, approved two years ago by Resolution of the San Jose City Council and spearheaded by former Council member Kansen Chu who is now California Assemblyman. The **Iris Chang Park** is named in honor of the late Iris Chang, author of the *Rape of Nanjing*, an award winning documentary of one of the most horrific period in World War II history when the Japanese Imperial Army murdered over 300,000 civilians and raped over 20,000 women and girls in a matter of three months from November 1937 to January 1938. The events of the *Rape of Nanjing* are now permanently memorialized in UNESCO's Memory of Registry and commemorated every year on December 13 in China and throughout the world's Chinese community. The lesson is: We must not forget history, lest it will be repeated.

We were all very excited when we first learned that San Jose will have a park to honor Iris. But we are very disappointed to learn that the construction of the park is delayed over a proposed plan by the SJ Municipal Water System that involves a well to be dug on the planned Iris Chang Park.

This is simply unacceptable and suggests a lack of commitment and failed vision to honor the Resolution to remember Iris, who is a heroine in the eyes of the peace community throughout the world. The

structural planning cannot usurp an established goal of providing a park for San Jose residents while commemorating an important lesson in WWII history. Justice delayed is justice denied.

We urge you to vote in support of removing any impediments to the building of the **Iris Chang Park** and immediately commence the construction according to the plans submitted and approved. We further urge that you set a time line for the completion of the planned park and hold the agencies in charge accountable for a timely construction of this valuable park.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours truly,

Julie Tang and Lillian Sing, Ret'd Judges

Co-chairs of the "Comfort Women" Justice Coalition