

FW: Heinlerville Park

City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/24/2020 11:57 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Ross, Rebekah

Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 11:53 AM

To: Jillian Hiu <[REDACTED]> Mendez, Zacharias <[REDACTED]> Nguyen, Mindy <[REDACTED]> City Clerk <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Meyer-Calvert, Teresa <[REDACTED]> Hunter, Cassie <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: Heinlerville Park

Dear Ms. Hiu,

Thank you for these comments. I am forwarding your comments to our City Clerk office so this letter can be posted with the public comments on item 7.1 of the 9/1/20 City Council agenda.

This item is currently shown as 'dropped' on this agenda.

We will be sure to include you in communications updating you about this item.

Best Regards, Rebekah

[Rebekah Ross, Planner IV](#)

[Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services](#)

[Capital Improvement Projects - Strategic Planning Team](#)

From: Jillian Hiu <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 9:57 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <[REDACTED]> Mendez, Zacharias <[REDACTED]> Nguyen, Mindy <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Heinlerville Park

[External Email]

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." The park is located where the former Heinlerville Chinatown was from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this community after its creator John Heinlen, who provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese sentiment.

Also, "Sakura Park" intensifies the stereotype that Japanese culture revolves around cherry blossoms. Japanese customs extend further than a pretty tree. I urge you to pick the name "Heinlerville Park" that commemorates Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) history and culture, not trivializes it.

Thank you.

Jillian Hiu

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FW: "Heinlenville Park" naming recommendation for agenda item, 9/1 City Council Meeting

Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/18/2020 2:49 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Forwarding for posting.

Brenda Wong <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Brenda Hee Wong

Thu, Aug 13 at 7:07 PM

Hello San Jose City Council Member and Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you an action you can take to ensure that those whom you and I serve will know about San Jose's history and the people who, since San Jose's early days of incorporation, sacrificed, persevered, succeeded to empower themselves, their families and their community.

The naming of the new public park in District 3, Japantown, "Heinlenville Park" will be an opportunity to link heritage and history. The Asian American communities of Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino, have a long history in San Jose and are still to this day actively working to share its history and culture. You have been participants in this wonderful sharing as you have gone to their businesses, restaurants and festivals.

You can continue their stories of heritage and culture by naming the new public park in Japantown, "Heinlenville Park, a name of historic, humanitarian and cultural significance. You will feel proud at the park's dedication that you helped honor and recognize the Humanitarian John Heinlen and his family and the Asian American communities who did as the former Congressman John Lewis encouraged, "Never Give up, Never give in, Never give out, Keep the faith and keep your eyes on the prize." **More info about Heinlenville can be found on the CHCP website by [clicking here](#)** and when indoor museums can open again, I would be happy to meet you for a tour to learn even more.

With best regards,
Brenda Hee Wong

Brenda Hee Wong
Director and past President, 2013-2018
Chinese Historical & Cultural Project

On Monday, August 17, 2020, 10:21:06 AM PDT, Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Brenda,

Thank you for reaching out. I'm very sorry that you did not receive a response from our office. It looks like you had the right email, [REDACTED] but it may have been misplaced in the hundreds

of emails the Mayor receives every day.

If you can provide your comments to me, I can share them directly with the Mayor. I will also forward them to the Clerk for posting when the item comes before the Council.

Best regards,

Mackenzie



Mackenzie Mossing

Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor



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From: Brenda Wong [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])]
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 2:31 AM
To: Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Brenda Hee Wong <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Mayor Liccardo email address?

[External Email]

Hello Mackenzie,

I had sent an email to the Mayor for the naming of a new park in Japantown and wondering if I used the correct email address?

I wrote to

[REDACTED]

Is this a useable address?

A friend said it should have been

the office of

[REDACTED]

Thank you for directing me as to where to write.

Sincerely,

Brenda

Brenda Hee Wong

Director

Chinese Historical & Cultural Project

[REDACTED]

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FW: Naming for new park in San Jose Japantown

Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>

Tue 8/18/2020 2:48 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Forwarding for posting.

From: Ken Kwan [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])]

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:49 AM

To: District3 <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]>

District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]>

District7 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]>

District 10 <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]

Subject: Naming for new park in San Jose Japantown

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, and City Councilmembers Charles Jones, Sergio Jimenez, Raul Peralez, Lan Diep, Magdalena Carrasco, Devora Davis, Maya Esparza: Sylvia Arenas, Pam Foley, and Johnny Khamis,

I am writing to express my support for "Heinlerville Park" to be the name for San Jose Japantown's new public park between Taylor and Sixth Streets.

This new park will be on the exact same land that the Heinlerville Chinatown once stood. The establishment of San Jose's Japantown would not have been possible without the Heinlerville Chinatown, where Japanese immigrants sought a protective community. Japantown was formed adjacent to the Heinlerville Chinatown. I believe that "Heinlerville Park" would best honor San Jose's local history and the local Asian-American community.

I hope to see Japantown's new public park be named "Heinlerville Park".

Sincerely,
Ken

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FW: Naming for new park in San Jose Japantown

Mossing, Mackenzie <[redacted]>

Tue 8/18/2020 2:48 PM

To: Agendadesk <[redacted]>

Forwarding for posting.



Mackenzie Mossing

Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor



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From: Jesse Wong [[mailto:\[redacted\]](mailto:[redacted])]

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:27 PM

To: District3 <[redacted]> District1 <[redacted]> District2 <[redacted]>
District4 <[redacted]> District5 <[redacted]> District 6 <[redacted]>
District7 <[redacted]> District8 <[redacted]> District9 <[redacted]>
District 10 <[redacted]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo
<[redacted]> Mendez, Zacharias <[redacted]> Ross,
Rebekah <[redacted]>

Subject: Naming for new park in San Jose Japantown

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, and City Councilmembers Charles Jones, Sergio Jimenez, Raul Peralez, Lan Diep, Magdalena Carrasco, Devora Davis, Maya Esparza: Sylvia Arenas, Pam Foley, and Johnny Khamis,

I am writing to express my support for "Heinlerville Park" to be the name for San Jose Japantown's new public park between Taylor and Sixth Streets.

This new park will be on the exact same land that the Heinlerville Chinatown once stood. The establishment of San Jose's Japantown would not have been possible without the Heinlerville Chinatown, where Japanese immigrants sought a protective community. Japantown was formed adjacent to the Heinlerville Chinatown. I believe that "Heinlerville Park" would best honor San Jose's local history and the local Asian-American community.

I hope to see Japantown's new public park be named "Heinlerville Park".

Sincerely,

Ben Ng and family

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August 13, 2020

The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San José
and Members of the City Council
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA 95113
sent via email

re: naming a new park in Japantown "Sakura"

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I write to give my personal thoughts regarding the naming of the new park in Japantown. While I am a member of the Parks and Rec. Commission (PRC), I am writing this letter as an individual to discuss my personal comments and actions at the March 2020 meeting.

I appreciate that you on the City Council make the final decisions and that the PRC is just advisory. Nonetheless, I take my part in naming a park quite seriously: it is one of the most enduring actions to take. Budgets change each year and playgrounds are periodically rebuilt, but the name of a park can last for decades or even centuries. I personally found the park-naming process to be most professional, with useful information provided beforehand for review and with an informed and enlightened discussion at the Commission meeting. I feel that "Sakura" is an excellent choice for the name of the new park in Japantown.

Sometime afterwards, I was copied on multiple letters that favor of the name "Heinlenville Park". If these comments had been sent earlier, I could have considered them in my thought process.

Nonetheless, I stand by the motion I made to recommend the name "Sakura."

As I said at the time, I was already somewhat aware of the story of John Heinlen and how he helped the Chinese community during San José's anti-immigrant past. I appreciate how "Heinlenville" invoked San José's multicultural history: German, Chinese, and Japanese -- just as I am proud of how the predominantly European city of San José could later look past its ethnic divisions and elect a Japanese mayor, and how it now honors him with the name of our airport. But I also felt that a park name is more than a history lesson for the few, and so I recommended a name that I thought would better honor the entire community.

I appreciate the detailed report that Staff provided the Commission and the public. Looking it up in the records, I see that dozens of names were offered.

- Yujo Park was the top vote-getter (69 votes), but the Staff memo noted that the word "carries connotations that are potentially inappropriate";
- Japantown Park was 2nd with 56 votes, but that to me somehow seemed too prosaic -- I felt it lacked "pizazz";
- Sakura, meaning "cherry blossom," came in a close 3rd with 54 votes;
- Tokio Ishikawa had 43;
- Heinlenville was 5th with 41.

It was pointed out that if you add in the 37 votes for 6th-place "John Heinlen Park", you'd get a winner; it was also noted that if you added Sakura and Japantown, that would be larger still.



Also, it is worth noting that the public vote is guidance but it is not binding: there had not been a rigorous and thorough voting process, and so the count can be skewed, for example, by developers from a nearby project. And sometimes the naming process can be overrun by silliness: remember the public process in England to name a new ship, only to be inundated with votes for “Boaty McBoatface.”

In making my motion, I also considered the various public comments provided, and I was influenced by them:

- There was a request to not name the park after yet another European. “Please use something that is meaningful to the community;” and
- “Sakura is the Japanese national flower. The Japanese enjoy Sakura in Ohanami which is the cherry blossoms festival in spring time. In floral language it has the meaning of ‘Accomplishment’ and ‘Beauty of heart’.”

And I noted that streets in Japantown are lined with banners depicting the cherry blossoms. To me, it seems a perfect fit.

But, as I noted above, the final decision will be made by you on the City Council. Good luck!



~Larry Ames, longtime park and historic advocate.

cc: City Clerk; City Manager; PRNS Director & Staff; Parks & Rec Cmsn.

August 13, 2020

The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San Jose
And Members of the City Council
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Naming of a new park in Japantown

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing as an individual who is no longer on the Parks and Recreation Commission as of July 2020 to share with you my comments and decisions at the March 2020 PRNS Commission meeting.

I would like to address the inaccuracy of the letter(s) generated by those connected to the project **Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown** and **Robert Ragsac** indicating: “During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. We believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.”

When I served on the PRNS commission, representing the community is of utmost priority for me. I followed the policies and procedures set forth to make decisions based on community input.

Here are the numbers presented to the commission regarding the naming of the park.

- Yujo Park (69 votes) - Double meaning with a bad connotation
- Japantown (56 votes) - Uninspiring name
- Sakura (54 votes) – Is the translation for “cherry blossom.” It also means “beauty of heart,” and “accomplishment.”
- Tokio Ishikawa (43 votes)
- Heinlenville (41 votes)
- John Heinlen Park (37 votes)
- Nihonmachi Park (37 votes)
- James Benjamin Peckman (14 votes)

Based on these numbers, the majority of the community (259 vs 78) wanted a “Japanese-referenced” name, not Heinlenville. Additionally, a note from a community member that was included said, “Please do not name a park after a Caucasian. Please use something that is meaningful to the community” was included in the report.



Based on these numbers, I felt strongly that I (we) voted for what the community wanted a name that referenced the Japanese culture and community. My decision was based on the majority of votes. I did go with the highest number of votes and NOT against it as indicated by Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown and Robert Ragsac.

When serving on the commission, I put my heart and reputation on the line daily and do not appreciate the misuse of inaccurate information to make me and my colleagues look bad just to get their points across.

In the end, it is still up to the Council to make the final decision that is best for the community. The commission is simply an advisory board; however, I felt the need to write this letter to clarify how my decision was made and to call out false information disseminated by the aforementioned organization and individual to stake their case.

Best regards,



Trami Cron

Cc:

City Clerk's Office

Dave Sykes, City Manager

Jon Cicirelli, Director of PRNS

Teresa Meyer-Cavert, PRNS staff to CC PRNS Commissioners

Daphna Wolfe, PRNS Commission Chair

George Adas, PRNS Commission Vice Chair

Rebekah Ross, PRNS Staff

August 7, 2020

Mayor Liccardo, City Councilmembers, Parks and Recreation Commissioners

To our distinguished San Jose leadership:

I am herewith submitting this letter of protest to the March 4, 2020 Parks and Recreation Commission decision on their Agenda Item VII A – Nomination to Name a New Public Park: Heinlenville Park. I understand that they voted to overturn the staff and community recommendation of Heinlenville Park to instead use the name Sakura Park. I would like to comment but would first like to give you a short background of my history with both the City of San Jose and Japantown community.

I am a 3rd generation Japanese American Sansei and San Jose native son born in San Jose Hospital. I worked for the City of San Jose/Redevelopment Agency for 30-years. My City/Agency Planner/Development Officer duties included serving as the Historic Preservation Officer and staff to the Historic Landmarks Commission; Neighborhood Business District Coordinator starting the Japantown Business and Professional Association including the area's Master Plan of economic and physical development strategies; staff coordination of the Jackson-Taylor Redevelopment Area and Plan creation; and serving on numerous neighborhood planning committees. From a community standpoint, I have served on the San Jose Japanese American Citizens League Board of Directors in Japantown for over 40-years, 8 of which as its President; and participated as a member of the Japantown Community Congress during its master planning processes for Japantown. Over the years, I have tried to act as a bridge between the community and the City and feel that I have valuable insights towards how to best serve both. But before delving into added details, I would just like to say that my intentions are to foster understanding, awareness and perhaps a different perspective by offering these viewpoints.

On the surface, the renaming of the proposed park seems like a fairly benign action when taken in the spirit of the Commissioners having good intentions. However, I believe that the renaming using "Sakura" is a mistake, for three major reasons including: the loss of an opportunity to impart valuable local history, the risk of damaging community trust and ongoing partnership, and the potential for committing a social justice faux pas during a time where we can ill afford to err.

First, though "Sakura Park" may have been conceived as an appreciative nod towards a well-known symbol of Japanese culture as a whole, its use here would do a major disservice to the specific community it is meant to honor. The people of San Jose Japantown have expressed their desire to root the name of this park in local history in order to highlight the struggle that formed Japantown in the first place. To use a generic Japanese word as a name would forfeit a chance to publicly tell the story of a damn good man who stood up to racism during a climate frighteningly similar to that which we experience today. John Heinlen supported the Chinese/Japanese/Filipino community through heroic actions in giving the ostracized Chinese a place to land after they were burned out of their downtown block. San Jose is the home to one of only three remaining Japantowns in the United States and its story includes one of support for the oppressed, of which there are woefully few, and this makes the story of Mr. John Heinlen invaluable to the local

community as well as to our nation as a whole. It is critical that this story be brought into the light rather than buried beneath a shallow facade of cherry blossoms. Please help our community enlighten those who have yet to learn the story.

The second reason is the public partnership that local government has with its community members. The Japantown community takes pride in the ongoing partnership that it endeavors to enhance with our government leaders. After WWII, Japantown community leaders strove to ensure that JA faces were seen and voices were heard. A bond of communication and trust was established that continues to this day. Robust participation by community members in all aspects of process and governance is enjoyed. Should governing bodies discount the established cooperative relationship and dismiss valid community input, we tend to question “why” and then do what we can to remedy the situation as partners in governance. We should always embrace the value added through observing due process. Staff held four public meetings vetting the proposed park names and the results should not be dismissed lightly.

Which leads to the final concern regarding the use of "Sakura Park" and that is, with all due respect to the Parks and Recreation Commissioners, the fact that their self-assured hubris in overturning a historically significant and community vetted name is unconscionable. This is particularly true in a time when the public is out en masse crying for America to open its eyes to unilateral decisions and actions being taken that disregard their tangible impacts. Using the “Sakura Park” name could be seen as a blatant attempt by the Commission to bury the ugly history of racism carried out against the Chinese by the white city leadership and the extended community that burned down Chinatown and then attempted to prohibit their resettlement in San Jose. The renaming action may be seen as a modern-day whitewash of history and a slap in the face to the community that wants its story shared through the name of one of its heroes. Recent events have made it abundantly clear that people of color should not, can not, and will not be ignored. Rather than doing so, we should instead be taking every opportunity possible to promote positive social justice messaging and give the general public exposure to stories like that of John Heinlen.

Thank you for your kind attention and for considering the points herein that are important to me and the Japantown community, and I hope also captures the sentiments of the greater community as a whole. Today’s political climate mandates an awareness and sensitivity that is being held to a higher standard. The portrayal of history in its many forms must be dealt with openly and honestly without any shirking of responsibility or obscuring of facts. As our current City leadership and our partners, please listen to us and do our community’s history and integrity justice by supporting the “Heinlenville Park” name. This being a prime opportunity to stand on the right side of history, and to help our community tell its story, not just for the sake of the immediate community, but for the enrichment of San Jose and more.

With appreciation,



August 12, 2020

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo:

We have lived in this area since the mid-1980s. Over the years, Japantown has become one of our favorite destinations to visit, walk, and share a good meal with friends. We learned that this wonderful community is one of only three Japantowns that still exist in the U.S. While we are not of Japanese descent, we found that fact exciting, and we are proud that here in Santa Clara County, this treasured community managed to stay vibrant, thriving, and with its history intact.

However, what we didn't know until we visited a museum in San Jose is what is inspiring me to write this letter.

Located within the San Jose History Park is a museum called "The Chinese American Historical Museum". Exhibits within this small, charming building tell the history of the Chinese Americans in Silicon Valley. In this facility, we learned the history of the building (named Ng Shing Gung) and how the bold and brave actions of John Heinlen made a huge difference to the Chinese in this area during a time period of hate and animosity.

We learned that the building was modeled after the original building located within Heinlenville, a land area owned by John Heinlen, leased to the Chinese at very low rates. John Heinlen stepped up to help the Chinese with rebuilding their lives following a mysterious fire which burnt to the ground the Market Street Chinatown. The exhibits explain the importance of Heinlenville and this building to the Chinese American community as not only a safe haven, but also a community center, hostel, and place of worship.

We found the history fascinating and very hopeful. The Heinlen family, through their actions, are examples to all of us today. Naming the new Japantown park "Heinlenville Park" would honor the Heinlen family for their contributions and actions which made a huge difference to the Chinese Americans in the area. Also, the name "Heinlenville" and Heinlen's story will serve as a reminder to all of us of the importance of making a difference in other people's lives, regardless of race, culture, or background. We are all in this together and these days, it seems we need to be reminded of that more than ever.

Please consider naming the new public park in San Jose's Japantown "Heinlenville Park".

Sincerely,

Maria Lu and Po-Kang Wang

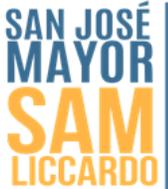
FW: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/13/2020 11:14 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Forwarding for posting



Mackenzie Mossing

Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor

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From: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 1:04 PM

To: Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>

Subject: FW: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

From: Susan Yuen [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])]

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 11:57 AM

To: Ross, Rebekah <[REDACTED]> Nguyen, Mindy <[REDACTED]> Mendez, Zacharias <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

<[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff, and Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, George Adas, Lawrence Ames, Trami Cron, Rudy Flores, Andre Morrow, and Kelly Snider:

I stand in strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park.

During the Mar. 4 meeting, the Commissioners overruled the recommendation by the city's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) that the park be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville, choices that received the highest number of votes in four public, city-wide PRNS surveys. This usurps the consensus of the people. I believe Heinlenville/John Heinlen would have received even more votes if the greater community were aware of his contributions.

I am a resident of District 6 and currently employed by the Japanese American Museum of San Jose to work on a project called "Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown." This project, funded by the Knight Foundation, will use AR technology to engage the public with art inspired by the events and stories that have been a part of San Jose Japantown. Throughout its more than 130 year history, San Jose Japantown has developed from an extension of San Jose Chinatown (Heinlerville) to a thriving neighborhood that became the home to several immigrant communities including the Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino. With a changing Japantown of the 21st century, many of the stories, images, and sounds of the hard work, play, family life, struggle, and conflict—the life pulse of the community—are often buried, hidden. The decision to name the park "Sakura Park" further buries our local history.

With AR technology, we have the potential to bring the history back to life, and naming the park in honor of John Heinlen would be very fitting. We could potentially even place AR art pieces in the park itself. I hope that the leaders of San Jose will support the preservation of our local history.

Sincerely yours,
Susan Kanagawa Yuen
Project Manager, Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown

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FW: Naming of the New Park in Japantown

Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/13/2020 11:10 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Forwarding for posting.



Mackenzie Mossing

Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor

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From: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:09 AM

To: Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>

Subject: FW: Naming of the New Park in Japantown

From: [REDACTED] [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])]

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 11:03 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Naming of the New Park in Japantown

[External Email]

Dear Mr. Liccardo,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887. Heinlen's actions directly countered anti-Chinese members of the community who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied naturalization and US citizenship to Chinese, legalized discrimination against them, and revealed our government's Sinophobia. The Act was the first and only federal legislation to prohibit immigration for a specific race. In the midst of this blatant racism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities. Heinlenville became a home for them.

Besides the history behind the name "Heinlenville Park," the name "Sakura Park" focuses too narrowly on Japanese culture with cherry blossoms. Japanese culture extends further than a pretty tree. "Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, honor the humanitarian John Heinlen family, and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history. I urge you to pick the name "Heinlenville Park", the name that commemorates the contributions of the three Asian American communities.

CHCP Board Member,

Peter Young

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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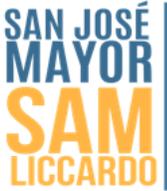
FW: Heinlerville Park

Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/13/2020 11:09 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Forwarding for posting



Mackenzie Mossing

Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor

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From: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:11 AM

To: Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>

Subject: FW: Heinlerville Park

From: Low family [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])]

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 11:00 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Heinlerville Park

[External Email]

Mayor Sam Liccardo,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park" which is in direct opposition to a multipage recommendation letter jointly signed by CHCP, Japantown Business Association, Japantown Community Congress and the Japantown Neighborhood Association for the **nomination of the name "Heinlerville Park"**

The park is located where the former Heinlerville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887. Heinlen's actions directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied naturalization and U.S. citizenship of the Chinese, legalizing discrimination against them and revealing our government's Sinophobia. The act was the first and only federal legislation to prohibit immigration for a specific race. In the midst of this blatant racism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, and Heinlerville became a home for them.

Besides the history behind the name "Heinlenville Park," the name "Sakura Park" intensifies stereotypical correlations between Japan and cherry blossoms. Japanese culture extends further than a pretty tree.

I am a Chinese American citizen whose father served in the US Army while the Chinese Exclusion Act was in force.

People like John Heinlen respected his service to America. "Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, honor the humanitarian John Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history. I urge you to pick the name that commemorates Asian culture, not trivializes it.

Thank you,

Vivian Low

Resident of Santa Clara County

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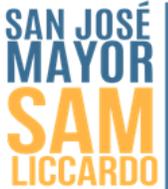
FW: Valuing history, heritage and community

Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/13/2020 11:09 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Forwarding for posting.



Mackenzie Mossing

Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor

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COVID-19 Community Resources & Information:

Silicon Valley Strong: www.siliconvalleystrong.org

From: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:19 AM

To: Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>

Subject: FW: Valuing history, heritage and community

From: Randy Sabado [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])]

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:59 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Valuing history, heritage and community

[External Email]

Hello Mayor Liccardo:

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887.

At a time when many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, Heinlen's actions provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, the honorable Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history.

Thank you

Randy Sabado

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FW: Name new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park"

Mossing, Mackenzie <[REDACTED]>

Thu 8/13/2020 11:08 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

Forwarding for posting.

From: Erwin Wong [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])]

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 4:04 PM

To: District1 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District4
<[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7
<[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10
<[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>
Nguyen, Mindy <[REDACTED]> Erwin Wong <[REDACTED]> Brenda Hee Wong
<[REDACTED]> Gerrye Wong <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Name new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park"

[External Email]

Greetings,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

"Heinlenville Park". This would serve as a tribute to the Heinlenville Chinatown that used to exist at this location in the 1800's, long before Japantown was built there. This is to honor the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) local community's historical roots

Thank you,

Erwin Wong

Chinese Historical and Cultural Project Director (CHCP)

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Fw: Japantown Plaza Park Naming

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Thu 8/27/2020 2:22 PM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

public comment

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? [Please take our short survey.](#)

From: Davisson, Kari <Kari.Davisson@sanjoseca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 12:29 PM

To: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Hunter, Cassie <cassie.hunter@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Re: Japantown Plaza Park Naming

Hi Rebekah,

No, this will not be included. Any responses you receive from here out, please forward them to the City Clerk to be posted as letters from the public.

I will reply directly to this one, letting her know that the item was not dropped.

Kari Davisson

Staff Technician, Office of the Director

City of San José Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

200 E. Santa Clara St.

San José, CA 95113

Working Remotely - Available for Call or Chat via Zoom/Skype/Teams

From: Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 12:27 PM

To: Hunter, Cassie <cassie.hunter@sanjoseca.gov>; Davisson, Kari <Kari.Davisson@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Fw: Japantown Plaza Park Naming

This one just came in. Can we squeeze it in with the others please???

Rebekah Ross, Planner IV
Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services
Capital Improvement Projects - Strategic Planning Team

From: Connie Yu [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 12:25 PM
To: Davisson, Kari <Kari.Davisson@sanjoseca.gov>; Cicirelli, Jon <Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: teresa.meyer-calvert@sanjose.gov <teresa.meyer-calvert@sanjose.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>; Tamiko Rast [REDACTED] >
Subject: Re: Japantown Plaza Park Naming

[External Email]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKvs4dHhrj0>

Dear Jon Cicirelli,

Thank you for informing those of us in the community concerned with the park naming that the topic is dropped from the Sept. 1 meeting and will come up at a later date.

In regard for the Commission's continuing discussion, I am sending you a link to my presentation on Heinlerville Chinatown produced for the Hidden Histories Project of JAMsj .

I am a "Heinlerville descendant." My grandfather was a teenage laborer when he fled the burning Market Street Chinatown in 1887. Miraculously, in the midst of anti-Chinese agitation, he had a second chance in San Jose when John Heinlen built a new Chinatown. My father John C. Young was born in Heinlerville in 1912. I wrote the book *Chinatown, San Jose, USA* published by History/San Jose based on oral histories of former residents and archival research.

I hope that my presentation on the legacy of Heinlerville will be of interest to you and explain why having the new park with the name "Heinlen" is so appropriate and meaningful.

Sincerely,
Connie Young Yu

Connie Young Yu c. [REDACTED]

From: Davisson, Kari <Kari.Davisson@sanjoseca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 6:15 PM

Cc: Cicirelli, Jon <Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov>; Meyer-Calvert, Teresa <teresa.meyer-calvert@sanjoseca.gov>; Ross, Rebekah <rebekah.ross@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Japantown Plaza Park Naming

Sent on behalf of Jon Cicirelli, Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Dear Community Members,

I would like to thank the many members of the community and our Parks and Recreation Commission who have taken the time to participate in the process to name the future Japantown Park Plaza.

Last week I made the decision to have this topic 'dropped' from the September 1, 2020 City Council agenda. This means that this topic is postponed and will be heard by the City Council on a later date.

I appreciate each perspective and value the opportunity to hear your voices. I made this decision because I would like our Parks and Recreation Commission to have the opportunity to have more discussion on this item.

Not too long ago we made some changes to the Park Naming process which now includes several public surveys for name nomination and voting. While we are very pleased this improved process has done a better job of engaging the community, we are still learning how the results of the process can be better reported to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

I believe that the Parks and Recreation Commission made a recommendation based on the best available information gathered from my staff and the public surveys; however, I recognize now that information we provided may have been too concise.

Today, during the City's Rules and Open Government Committee session, I will ask to have this park naming be considered by the City Council after the Parks and Recreation Commission can review the many public comment letters received since they made their decision - and to engage in additional community conversation.

I will work with my staff to make sure the community is informed of the decision of the Rules and Open Government Committee and all next steps.

If you would like to listen in during the Rules and Open Government Committee, please join in at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 online at: <https://zoom.us/j/93828586066>. For more information regarding this committee, please contact the Office of the City Clerk by email at: city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov.

I recognize this may be confusing or frustrating for some of you, but I also want to be sure we have given this naming the time we need before bring it back to Council. This park will not be open for 2-3 more years, so there is no urgency associated with September 1st. I expect we will still return to Council before the end of the year, hopefully with greater consensus. I appreciate your patience and continued participation.

Sincerely,

Jon Cicirelli |

Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Office of the Director | 408.793.5553

[200 E. Santa Clara St.](#), T-9, San José, CA 95113

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August 26, 2020

To: Mayor Sam Liccardo, D3 Councilmember Raul Peralez, San Jose City Councilmembers.

From: Dr. Michael Chang, Founding Executive Director, Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute, Emeritus Chair of Asian American Studies, De Anza College, Former Mayor of Cupertino.

Re: Proposal to name new park as “HEINLENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK” at the historical site of San Jose’s most enduring Chinatown.

The San Jose Mayor and City Councilmembers are strongly urged to name the new park at the exact location of San Jose’s longest-lived chinatown as “Heinlenville Chinatown Park”. The naming of the new park as “Heinlenville Chinatown Park” with a commemorative plaque will serve significant public education in terms of:

1. Recognition of the Resilient Early History of Chinese Americans in San Jose

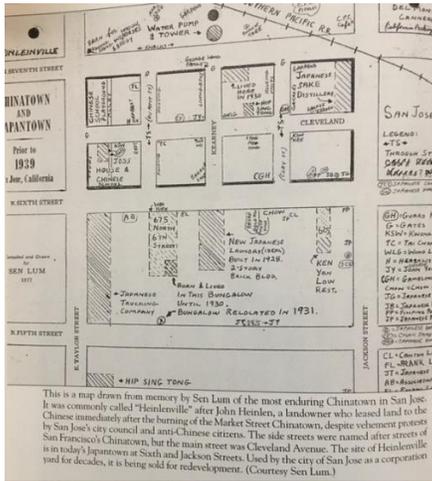
After the original Mexican residents, Chinese immigrants were the second large group of non-white residents in San Jose. Arriving during the Gold Rush, Chinese immigrants had a well-established Market Street Chinatown in the San Jose downtown by 1866. In 1887, the “Market Street Chinatown” was burnt down by arson and many Chinese residents relocated to a new “Heinlenville Chinatown”. With a 44-year history, Heinlenville Chinatown was the longest-lived chinatown in San Jose. This chinatown thrived until 1931 when the property ownership of the Heinlen family ended during the Great Depression. Heinlenville Chinatown was protected by a surrounding fence and featured a temple/community center which was built of bricks for protection against arson. In 1991, the Chinese American community built a replica of the Heinlenville temple as a Chinese American Historical Museum located in History San Jose.



2. Recognition of John Heinlen as an Early San Jose Champion of Racial Inclusion

After the 1870s, many Chinatowns were burnt by vigilante arsonists as an effective way of driving unwelcomed Chinese residents from cities and towns throughout California. In 1877, the Market Street Chinatown was burnt down a second time to drive out Chinese immigrant residents from San Jose. In a climate of frenzied anti-Chinese hate, John Heinlen stepped up courageously with an offer to lease his property to Chinese residents and rebuild a new chinatown. John Heinlen persevered despite both vehement protest from the City and threats to Heinlen and his family’s lives by anti-Chinese vigilantes. John Heinlen engaged architect Theodore Lenzen to design the Heinlenville Chinatown as an eight-block core area, with

Cleveland Avenue as the main street, and the side streets—Clay, Kearney, Dupont--named after streets of San Francisco Chinatown. This historic site is in today's Japantown, bounded by N. Sixth and N. Seventh, Jackson and E. Taylor.



3. Repudiation of San Jose City Council's Past Racism

For over 70 years from 1870s to 1940s, San Jose politics mirrored California's Anti-Chinese Movement of the late 19th century and Anti-Japanese Movement of the 20th century. In March of 1887, Mayor Charles Breyfogle and the San Jose City Council "voted unanimously to eliminate the Plaza Chinatown on Market Street on the grounds that it was a public nuisance and a health hazard. On May 4, before any official action was taken, an arson fire razed the entire Chinatown." (*Chinese in San Jose and Santa Clara Valley*, 2007, p. 19) Naming the new park as "Heilenville Chinatown Park" will be a meaningful occasion for San Jose's city council to repudiate its institutional history of racism, make a strong statement to affirm its policy of inclusion, and educate the public about San Jose's history of diversity. To do so during this period of anti-Asian hate during the Covid-19 pandemic will have additional significance.



In March 1887, Mayor Charles W. Breyfogle and the city council voted unanimously to eliminate the Plaza Chinatown on Market Street on the grounds that it was a public nuisance and a health hazard. On May 4, before any official action was taken, an arson fire razed the entire Chinatown. A headline in the May 5 San Jose Evening News read, "Among the Ruins Chinese and Whites Digging for Valuables in the Ashes Chinatown Swept from the Map of San Jose." (Courtesy History San Jose.)

Sources: Connie Young Yu, *Chinatown San Jose*. San Jose: History San Jose Reprint, 2001. All photos from *Chinese In San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley*, San Francisco: Arcadia Publishing, 2007.



May 1, 2020

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council,

Japantown Community of Congress of San Jose (JCCsj) writes to strongly support the Parks and Recreation Neighborhood Services recommendation of the naming of a park within the San Jose Japantown neighborhood as Heinlenville Park. This is the result of a city-wide survey and recommendation by City Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services staff (Memo of 2/21/2020 by Nicole Burnham). There is a recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Commission to City Council, to name the park "Sakura Park".

1. Heinlenville Park

We ask that you consider the public's first choice: John Heinlen/Heinlenville Park which was suggested 79 times in the public survey by city staff. This park is located in the historic heart of Heinlenville, the area that John Heinlen made available as a refuge to Chinese immigrants who were forcibly displaced by an act of arson, from their homes and businesses in the downtown San Jose area.

The naming of the park is an opportunity to educate and appreciate the history of this neighborhood in addition to honor John Heinlen, who historians have agreed did what he felt was right (despite threats of personal harm), by showing compassion to people were disappropriated based solely on ethnicity. San Jose Japantown is also proud to be a diverse community with a rich history of people of Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, and African American descent in addition to many other ethnicities, and we believe John Heinlen set the example of the same values we honor and hold dear.

2. Sakura Park

"Sakura" Park was suggested 54 times in the public survey. "Sakura" (cherry blossom), is the national flower of Japan. It is an important symbol of Japan, yet, is an overused and stereotypical symbol of "being Japanese or from Japan". From a geographic and historical lens, San Jose lacks a Cherry Blossom festival that other Japanese American communities celebrate. There are no cherry blossom trees in San Jose Japantown due to the inability of 'sakura' trees to grow well in this area. The "sakura" blooming season in Japan is only two weeks long, and park attendees will be disappointed when they visit the park only to learn that the park is incapable of having such trees. Thus: there would be no connection to the "sakura."

The mission of the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose is to advocate for the preservation of the historic and cultural heritage of San Jose's Japantown and promote efforts to sustain and enhance the diversity, vibrancy and viability of this community as a legacy for future generations.



This area, known as San Jose Japantown is one of three remaining Japantowns left in the United States. It is a true gem and recognized by National Geographic as one of the 28 friendliest neighborhoods in the entire United States. This welcoming area was created by John Heinlen. As acknowledgement of John Heinlen's generosity and the historic and current demographics of this community we urge you to support the name of this park in San Jose Japantown as: **Heinlenville Park.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter,



Pam Yoshida
JCCsj Co-President



Ryan Kawamoto
JCCsj Co-President

JCCsj Board of Directors:

Janice Doi, Roy Hirabayashi, Kelvin Kamachi, Jane Kawasaki, Neil Kozuma, Richard Kogura, Tamiko Rast, John Ristow, Rich Saito, Michael Sera, Victoria Takeda,

Co-signed by:

Supervisor Cindy Chavez (w/ attachment)

Cc:

Parks and Recreation Commission
Rebekah Ross, Parks and Recreation Neighborhood Services

The mission of the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose is to advocate for the preservation of the historic and cultural heritage of San Jose's Japantown and promote efforts to sustain and enhance the diversity, vibrancy and viability of this community as a legacy for future generations.

FW: 7:1 item on 8/31 SJ city council meeting

City Clerk

Mon 8/31/2020 11:41 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: William Shu [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2020 7:47 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Cc: tung tung <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: 7:1 item on 8/31 SJ city council meeting

[External Email]

I am submitting my input to 7:1 item.
Actions related to the future public park within the Japanese Square development.

Dear distinguished council members

As you may already know, people had tried to plant sakura trees in the area, but due to the weather, the trees did not survive.
Sakura trees are difficult to plant. If you name the park Sakura park, but have no such trees, it is like going into a toy store and found out there are no toys for sale.
Japan town is such a famous place, there is no need to give it another Japanese name.
Instead, by choosing HEINLENVILLE Park as its name, it shows that you all respect the history! It will attract more people to come to the area to know more about the park. In this way, more visitors will visit Japantown, and bring more businesses to the local merchants.
Please decide on Heinlenville park as its name.
This is a win-win solution.
Thank you for making the wise decision.

Sincerely
William Shu
[REDACTED]

FW: "Heinlenville Park" Letter (Simplified Chinese Translation)

City Clerk

Mon 8/31/2020 11:43 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Joshua Zhang [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2020 11:35 AM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Ms. Brenda Wong <[REDACTED]> Ms. Brenda Wong <[REDACTED]>
Subject: "Heinlenville Park" Letter (Simplified Chinese Translation)

[External Email]

Dear San Jose City Clerk,

I sent in a letter on 8/14 regarding the naming of the new Japantown park. I would like to share the same letter I sent in translated into Chinese (Simplified). I attached the document below.

Sincerely,
Joshua Zhang

 [Joshua Zhang - "Heinlenville Park" Name Letter ...](#)

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FW: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

City Clerk

Mon 8/31/2020 12:18 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Mendez, Zacharias
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 11:52 AM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fw: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

FYI - for public records.

ZACHARIAS MENDEZ | Parks Planner
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services
City Hall | Tel: 408.793.4171
200 East Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95113
Building Community Through Fun
sanjoseca.gov/prns | www.vivcallesj.org

From: Jim Nagareda <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 10:32 PM
To: Ross, Rebekah <[REDACTED]> Mendez, Zacharias <[REDACTED]> Nguyen, Mindy <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>
District1 <[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Naming Japantown's Newest Public Park

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff and Commissioners,

We are sending this reminder as to why we are opposed to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commissioner's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park. Please read our attached letter to see why the park should be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville.

Thank you,

James Nagareda
Executive Director
[REDACTED]

Michael Sera
Board President

Japanese American Museum of San Jose
535 North Fifth Street
San Jose, CA 95112

On Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 8:39 PM Jim Nagareda <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Councilmembers, PRNS Staff and Commissioners,

We are responding with strong objection to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commissioner's decision on March 4, 2020 to nominate "Sakura Park" as the name of Japantown's newest public park. Please read our attached letter to see why the park should be named after John Heinlen or Heinlenville.

We thank you for your consideration.

James Nagareda
Executive Director
[REDACTED]

Michael Sera
Board President

Japanese American Museum of San Jose
535 North Fifth Street
San Jose, CA 95112

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FW: Naming Proposal--"Heilenville Chinatown Park"

City Clerk

Mon 8/31/2020 12:40 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Nguyen, Mindy
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 12:35 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Naming Proposal--"Heilenville Chinatown Park"

For CC9/1 Item 7.1

From: Peralez, Raul <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:25 AM
To: Nguyen, Mindy <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: Naming Proposal--"Heilenville Chinatown Park"

Raul Peralez
Councilmember, District 3
City of San José

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lorraine Macdonald <[REDACTED]>
Date: August 30, 2020 at 7:29:34 PM PDT
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> "Peralez, Raul"
<[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> "Mendez, Zacharias"
<[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3
<[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District
6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]>
District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]> "Ross, Rebekah"
<[REDACTED]> "Nguyen, Mindy" <[REDACTED]> "Tran, David"
Subject: Naming Proposal--"Heilenville Chinatown Park"

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Councilmember Jones, Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Peralez, Councilmember Diep, Councilmember Carrasco, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Esparza, Councilmember Arenas, Councilmember Foley and Councilmember Karmis:

To omit mention of this site's history is to deny a teachable moment. If we do not learn from history, we are destined to repeat history. Further, we are guilty of either pretending that discrimination never happened, or that it cannot happen again. Or worse--that what happened did not matter, that we accept persecution of any group. As San Jose's leaders, I trust you will see the value of educating and setting an example for the public, that you believe we all deserve equal respect, equal treatment, and equal rights. Any group can be targeted with discrimination. Maybe the naming of this park with a commemorative plaque can help remind us to be vigilant against hate.

I strongly urge you to name the new park at the exact location of San Jose's longest-lived chinatown as "Heinlerville Chinatown Park". The naming of the new park as "Heinlerville Chinatown Park" with a commemorative plaque will serve as a significant means of public education. Not only will it recognize the early history of Chinese Americans in San Jose, honor John Heinlen's courage to take action as a champion of racial inclusion, but it will also be a meaningful occasion for San Jose's city council to make a strong statement to affirm its policy of inclusion, and educate the public about San Jose's history of diversity. To do so during this period of anti-Asian hate during the Covid-19 pandemic will have additional significance.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

L. Macdonald

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FW: Naming Proposal - "Heinlerville Chinatown Park"

City Clerk

Mon 8/31/2020 12:40 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Nguyen, Mindy
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 12:34 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Naming Proposal - "Heinlerville Chinatown Park"

For CC 9/1 Item 7.1

From: Peralez, Raul <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:25 AM
To: Nguyen, Mindy <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: Naming Proposal - "Heinlerville Chinatown Park"

Raul Peralez
Councilmember, District 3
City of San José

Begin forwarded message:

From: Patricia Yeung <[REDACTED]>
Date: August 30, 2020 at 6:00:39 PM PDT
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> "Peralez, Raul"
<[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> "Mendez, Zacharias"
<[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3
<[REDACTED]> District4 <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District
6 <[REDACTED]> District7 <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]>
District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]> "Ross, Rebekah"
<[REDACTED]> "Nguyen, Mindy" <[REDACTED]> "Tran, David"
Subject: Naming Proposal - "Heinlerville Chinatown Park"

[External Email]

To: The Mayor of San Jose and San Jose City Council members

From: Patricia Yeung, M.D., Former Staff Physician at the San Jose State University Health Center and Stanford Vaden Health Center

Re: Proposal to name the new park Heinlerville Chinatown Park

I am writing in support of Dr. Michael Chang's proposal to name the new San Jose park Heinlerville Chinatown Park. I refer you to Dr. Chang's letter/email, dated August 26, 2020, and sent to you on August 28, 2020, which gives a detailed background history and rationale for his proposal.

I share Dr. Chang's sentiments and will summarize my own thinking about the proposed name. Heinlerville Chinatown Park will inform the public about the history of Chinese immigrants in San Jose and the struggles they endured. The new name will also serve as a reminder that racial injustice against non-white Americans is long-standing and still needs to be addressed, especially with the increased anti-Asian sentiment perpetuated during the current pandemic. Finally, naming the park Heinlerville Chinatown will acknowledge the courage, integrity, and strength displayed by John Heinlen in his support of the Chinese residents in the late 1800's. The need to stand up and be counted was vital then and continues to be so to the present day.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FW: 9/1/20 Council Item #20-967 Naming of Japantown Park

City Clerk

Mon 8/31/2020 12:41 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Nguyen, Mindy
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 12:35 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: 9/1/20 Council Item #20-967 Naming of Japantown Park

For CC9/1 Item 7.1

From: mary tucker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2020 1:35 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> Peralez, Raul
<[REDACTED]> Nguyen, Mindy <[REDACTED]>
Subject: 9/1/20 Council Item #20-967 Naming of Japantown Park

[External Email]

I am writing to urge you to approve the recommendation naming the Japantown Square Development Park as the **Heinlenville Park**.

I have lived for 24 years in the Hensley Historic District neighborhood, right next to Japantown. I've been active in the Hensley District Neighborhood Association and many, many times we have partnered with our friends, businesses and associations in Japantown. With historic buildings in both of our neighborhoods, we are proud of our area and work together with our neighbors on the many issues facing our area. We are also proud of the diversity in our areas.

I understand that various organizations in Japantown are recommending the name of Heinlenville for the park proposed in their area. I join in their recommendations. Particularly for the reasons given by the Japantown Business Association, that the ***"title Heinlenville Park provides a much wider, inclusive perspective of history and acknowledges the multi-ethnic foundation of the community that now thrives on John Heinlen's former property."***

Thank you.

Mary Tucker

FW: HEILENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK

City Clerk

Mon 8/31/2020 12:42 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Nguyen, Mindy
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 12:36 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: HEILENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK

For CC9/1 Item 7.1

From: Joanna Shea <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2020 1:02 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED] District1
<[REDACTED] Mendez, Zacharias <[REDACTED] District2 <[REDACTED]
District3 <[REDACTED] District4 <[REDACTED] District5 <[REDACTED] District 6
<[REDACTED] District7 <[REDACTED] District8 <[REDACTED] District9
<[REDACTED] District 10 <[REDACTED] Ross, Rebekah <[REDACTED] Nguyen,
Mindy <[REDACTED] Tran, David <[REDACTED]
Subject: HEILENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK

[External Email]

Dear Mayor and Council Memebers,

I have been a Chemistry teacher at East Side Union High School District for over 22 years. My husband and I reside at Santa Clara county for over 28 years.

I support the name "HEILENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK" instead of "Heilenville Park". While "Heilenville Park" is definitely an appropriate name, it really does not mean much to anyone. On the other hand, "Heinlenville Chinatown Park" is much better as the intention is to recognize and educate the public about early Chinese American history in San Jose.

Sincerely,

Joanna Shea and John Eng

FW: Support "HEILENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK" Naming Proposal

City Clerk

Mon 8/31/2020 12:42 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Nguyen, Mindy
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 12:36 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Support "HEILENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK" Naming Proposal

For CC9/1 Item 7.1

From: Greg Tanaka <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2020 10:06 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> Perez, Raul
<[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> Mendez, Zacharias
<[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4
<[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7
<[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10
<[REDACTED]> Ross, Rebekah <[REDACTED]> Nguyen, Mindy
<[REDACTED]> Tran, David <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support "HEILENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK" Naming Proposal

[External Email]

Mayor and Councilmembers,

I support the name "HEILENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK" instead of "Heilenville Park". While "Heilenville Park" is definitely an appropriate name, it really does not mean much to anyone. On the other hand, "Heinlenville Chinatown Park" is much better as the intention is to recognize and educate the public about early Chinese American history in San Jose.

Best regards,
Greg Lin Tanaka

--

Greg Tanaka | Council Member

Palo Alto City Council Member Tanaka's Office



Please think of the environment before printing this email – Thank you.

This message contains information that may be confidential and privileged. Unless you are the addressee, you may not use, copy or disclose the message or any information contained in the message. If you received the message in error, please notify the sender and delete the message. [Views I state are my own and may not represent those of the full Council.](#)

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FW: NAMING PROPOSAL-- "HEILENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK"

City Clerk

Mon 8/31/2020 12:44 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Nguyen, Mindy
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 12:37 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: NAMING PROPOSAL-- "HEILENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK"

For CC9/1 Item 7.1

From: Peralez, Raul <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Nguyen, Mindy <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: NAMING PROPOSAL-- "HEILENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK"

Raul Peralez
Councilmember, District 3
City of San José

From: [Richard Konda](#)
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 2:54 PM
To: [The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo](#); [Peralez, Raul](#); [District1](#); [District2](#); [District4](#); [District5](#); [District 6](#); [District7](#); [District8](#); [District9](#); [District 10](#); [Nguyen, Mindy](#); [Tran, David](#); [Mendez, Zacharias](#)
Subject: NAMING PROPOSAL-- "HEILENVILLE CHINATOWN PARK"
Importance: High

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo and members of the San Jose City Council: I strongly urge you to name the new park at the exact location of San Jose's longest-lived chinatown as "Heinlerville Chinatown Park" with a commemorative plaque that will help to educate the community. The new park will help in this education process because it provides:

1. Recognition of the Resilient Early History of Chinese Americans in San Jose
2. Recognition of John Heinlen as an Early San Jose Champion of Racial Inclusion
3. Repudiation of San Jose City Council's Past Racism

Sincerely,

Richard Konda
Executive Director
Asian Law Alliance



This message may contain confidential and privileged information. If it has been sent to you in error, please reply to advise the sender of the error and then immediately delete the message.

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FW: Park naming

City Clerk

Mon 8/31/2020 4:16 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Connie Yu [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 4:02 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Ross, Rebekah <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Park naming

[External Email]

To the City Council of San Jose:

As a historian and Heinlenville descendant, I am reiterating my support of the name of *Heinlenville* for San Jose's newest park.

In our joint letter to the City Council July 2, Tamiko Rast and I expressed our objection to "Sakura Park" and advocated the name of "John Heinlen" or "Heinlenville" which together received the most number of votes from the community.

The name of Heinlenville Park would honor the courageous man (and his children) who leased land to Chinese and Japanese at a time of violent anti-Asian racism, and it would also honor the community of people who refused to be driven out.

This would be an inclusive name, and greatly significant, for in the early 20th century, newcomers of color, turned away elsewhere in San Jose, always found a welcome in Heinlenville.

The City should be proud of having the name of Heinlenville for its newest park. It will reflect the best of our society and inspire future generations to do the right thing. I respectfully request that you, the City Council of San Jose, make the name of Heinlenville Park a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Connie Young Yu



September 1, 2020

Mayor Sam Liccardo and
Members of the San Jose City Council
200 E Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Members of the City Council

I would like to address the issue of the naming of the park that will be a central feature of the development known as Japantown Square.

I urge you to listen the requests of the individuals and families whose legacies are rooted in this place.

In our multicultural city, I understand the impulse to resist efforts to name a prominent location after a(nother) white man. But giving in to this impulse ignores the wishes of the community, and erases the experiences of the Chinese-, Japanese- and African-American families who were able to make this neighborhood their home when they were pushed out of other areas in the city.

As a white woman (who first moved to the neighborhood 16 years ago and now runs a community-focused arts organization located in the heart of Japantown), I don't consider *my* opinion to be of primary importance, but I do consider it my responsibility as an ally and an active contributor to this community to amplify the voices of those who are asking to have their histories recognized and respected. For this reason, I support the requests of community leaders to name the park Heinlenville, after the historic community that made this neighborhood what it is, because of a family's steadfast commitment to anti-racism – long before people even thought of anti-racism as a concept. To ignore these requests in favor of a name that represents a generic Japanese symbol (and a tree that was never able to take root in this area) is performative at best.

If a park in Japantown is named "Sakura Park," visitors won't think twice about it. But the name Heinlenville will invite inquiry and provide an opportunity for people to understand the history of this neighborhood and our city. And important history that should be known and passed down.

My husband, a Japanese-American attorney who has maintained his practice in this Japantown community for 35 years, still tells the story of his grandmother taking him to the cemetery to wash off the gravestones of the Carlsons a (white) family he did not know – something she did every year. It wasn't until she explained to him that, when his parents and grandparents were taken away and imprisoned in the internment camps, the Carlsons took care of the property that his family would have

lost (as so many Japanese-American families lost everything as a result of their imprisonment and corresponding seizure of their property), and, purchased an industrial washing machine, put it on the back of a pickup truck and drove it over a thousand miles so that those imprisoned in the camp could maintain a modicum of dignity. These are the kinds of stories that should not be forgotten and, indeed, are a model of the kind of community support we should all be practicing today.

I urge you not to let the community history be lost, or to let the requests of the community members go unheard.

Respectfully,



Karen Altree Piemme
Director, Red Ladder Theatre Company

FW: Council Agenda Item 7.1, Future Public

City Clerk

Tue 9/1/2020 10:32 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>;

From: Lisa Jensen [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2020 10:22 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]>
Cc: City Clerk [REDACTED] >
Subject: Council Agenda Item 7.1, Future Public

[External Email]

Mayor Liccardo and Council,

It is not clear why the Parks Commission elected to ignore the community receiving a new park when they put forward a recommendation of Sakura. The Sakura is not native to San Jose nor does it thrive in San Jose. Japantown attempted to grow the Sakura without success.

It is my hope you will accept the staff, and community recommendation, and name the new park in Japantown after John Heinlein. Mr. Heilein offered a haven to all people of color, most critically the Chinese and Japanese immigrants who were unwelcome and threatened in the rest of San Jose. He successfully created a home for Chinese, Japanese, and African Americans seeking a new life. He suffered death threats and abuse as a result of his fierce dedication to building community.

It is because of Mr. Heinlein that San Jose can boast to having one of very few Japantowns in the United States. It is high time to honor the community and Mr. Heilein.

thank you,
Lisa Jensen

Lisa Jensen
[REDACTED]

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FW: Comment on Item # 7.1 20-967

City Clerk

Tue 9/1/2020 1:15 PM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>;

From: Momo C. [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2020 12:30 PM
To: City Clerk [REDACTED] >
Subject: Comment on Item # 7.1 20-967

[External Email]

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing in regards to Item # 7.1 20-967 Actions Related to the Future Public Park within the Japantown Square Development. I am a resident of Japantown and I've lived here for about 6 years now. I am a second generation Japanese American woman and I'm a volunteer at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose. It is important to acknowledge great accomplishments within our community and Heinlen's support of Asian Americans definitely merit that.

I am one of the "newer" residents of Japantown, but I urge you to please listen to those who have extensive knowledge of the history and impact that Heinlen has made and that we honor his actions and let it be a message to others to do as he did. The recent concerns for naming city-related areas and such after a white man is indeed a real problem, but Heinlen was not a man who oppressed and enslaved minorities. Looking at only a person's color is the issue and by going with Sakura Park and ignoring the history that Japantown is built upon is propagating and continuing racism. Sakura means nothing to San Jose Japantown, we don't even have any sakura trees. Just because it's a popular Japanese term does not justify using it and will be interpreted as cultural appropriation because there is no real appreciation for its meaning.

I hope that you will reconsider the naming of the Japantown Square park to a name that is fitting for San Jose Japantown.

Thank you.

*Momo C.
Graphic Designer & Illustrator
[REDACTED]

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Fw: Heinlineville Park

City Clerk

Thu 9/3/2020 7:49 AM

To: Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

From: Burnham, Nicolle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 5:30 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Graham, Charlotte <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Heinlineville Park

Hello-
Please see this correspondence regarding Item 7.1 on tonight's council agenda.

Nicolle Burnham | Deputy Director
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services
200 East Santa Clara Street, 9th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
P: (408) 793-5514
Building Community Through Fun
[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

From: Graham, Charlotte
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 5:26 PM
To: Burnham, Nicolle <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fw: Heinlineville Park

Hi Nicolle -
Pardon my ignorance, but I wasn't sure who I should forward this park naming info to. Any chance you can please steer me in the right direction?
Thank you,
Charlotte

Charlotte Graham
Emergency Public Information Officer | City of San José COVID-19 Response
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Phone: (408) 838-2859

Building Community Through Fun

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)



Charlotte Graham | Conservation & Communications Manager

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo

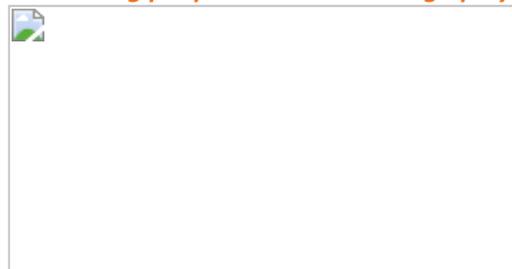
City of San José | Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services

1300 Senter Road | San José, California 95112

Phone: (408) 838-2859 | www.happyhollow.org

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Connecting people to nature through play.



From: Torralba, Danielle <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 5:16 PM

To: Camarena, Carolina <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Graham, Charlotte <[Charlott](#)> <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Fw: Heinlineville Park

Hi,

Please resident's email below.

Thank you.

Danielle Torralba

Office of Communications|City Manager's Office

City of San José | P. 408.535.8112

200 E Santa Clara Street, 17th Floor, San José, CA 95113

From: Rita Welsh <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 4:39 PM

To: CMOCcommunications <[CMOCcommunicati](#)> <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Heinlineville Park

[External Email]

Hello

Not sure if this is the correct address. If not, please divert to city council members.
Please name the new park after the wonderful German family who gave my mother's
family a safe place to live. Thank you.

Rita Welsh

former resident of the Rose Garden

current resident of Sunnyvale



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