

# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Zulma Maciel

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** January 11, 2021

Approved



Date

1/13/2021

**SUBJECT: RETROACTIVELY APPROVE CITY HALL TOWER AND ROTUNDA LIGHTING EVENTS DURING JANUARY 2021 AND FEBRUARY 2021 IN COLORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CELEBRATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, TET VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVALS**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Retroactively approve City Hall Tower and Rotunda lighting scheduled from January 17, 2021 through February 25, 2021 in colors associated with the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Tết Vietnamese and Chinese New Year festivals as a Ceremonial Item.

## **OUTCOME**

The recommended Council action will authorize the illumination of the City Hall Tower and Rotunda during January 2021 and February 2021 in colors associated with the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Tết Vietnamese and Chinese New Year festivals.

## **BACKGROUND**

City Council Policy 7-14, City Hall Event Lighting Policy, Sections B.1 and C.1 allows Rotunda and Tower lighting in conjunction with proclamations for official actions or ceremonial items as approved by City Council. The Office of Racial Equity, together with the Office of Economic Development, proposes that the Tower and Rotunda at City Hall be illuminated in the colors associated with the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Tết Vietnamese and Chinese New Year festivals during the months of January 2021 and February 2021. The lighting will begin on January 17, 2021 and end on February 25, 2021.

## **ANALYSIS**

Illuminating City Hall with colors celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Tết Vietnamese and Chinese New Year festivals in January 2021 and February 2021 will demonstrate respect for and acknowledge the beliefs and customs of fellow San Joséans.

The lighting of both the City Hall Tower and Rotunda will celebrate San José's cultural diversity and the following events:

- 1) Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a federal and state holiday that marks the birthday of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year. The City Hall Tower and Rotunda will be lit in red, green and yellow colors.
- 2) Tết is the most important celebration in the Vietnamese culture. The 10-day festival celebrates the arrival of spring based on the Vietnamese calendar. In 2021, the first day of the festival is February 12<sup>th</sup>. The City Hall Tower and Rotunda will be lit in red and yellow colors.
- 3) Chinese New Year celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar. It marks the end of winter and the beginning of the spring season. In 2021, the first day of the Chinese New Year will be on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, which is the Year of the Ox. The City Hall Tower and Rotunda will be lit in yellow and red colors.

Holiday	Illumination Dates	Colors
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 18, 2021)	1/17/2021 – 1/23/2021	Rotunda: Yellow Tower: Red & green (alternate every 2 floors)
Tết Vietnamese Festival (February 12 – 16, 2021)	2/12/2021 – 2/18/2021	Rotunda: Yellow Tower: Red
Chinese New Year (February 9 – 15, 2021)	2/20/2021 – 2/25/2021	Rotunda: Red Tower: Yellow

## **CONCLUSION**

Illumination of the City Hall Tower and the Rotunda will be a symbolic and colorful representation of the diversity of our City.

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### **EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

The Office of Racial Equity and Public Works Department will coordinate the City Hall Tower and Rotunda lighting per the table outlined in the Analysis section of this memorandum.

### **CLIMATE SMART SAN JOSE**

The recommendation in this memorandum does not affect Climate Smart San José energy, water, or mobility goals.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

This memorandum will be posted on the City website for discussion at the January 26, 2021 City Council meeting.

### **COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Office of Economic Development and the City Attorney's Office.

### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/INPUT**

No commission recommendation or input is associated with this action.

### **COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS**

No significant cost summary/implications are associated with this action.

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**CEQA**

Not a Project, File No. PP17-011, Temporary Special Events resulting in no changes to the physical environment.

/s/

ZULMA MACIEL

Director, Office of Racial Equity

For questions, please contact Zulma Maciel, Director of the Office of Racial Equity, at (408)-535-8146.