

*The Board of Supervisors of  
Contra Costa County, California*

**In the matter of:  
recognizing Lunar New Year Celebrations in Contra Costa County**

**Resolution No. 2023/43**

WHEREAS, California Assembly Bill 2596, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 29, 2022, declared Lunar New Year an official holiday in California. From the months of January to March, an estimated 2 billion people around the world welcome the new year through unique cultural celebrations in alignment with the lunar calendar. In this nation, millions of members of the Asian American diaspora originating from (but not limited to) the Philippines, Vietnam, China, Tibet, Mongolia and Korea, continue to celebrate these customs here in this nation; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa's Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities total close to 19 percent of the entire population – this winter, many households and communities across Contra Costa will engage in celebrations and traditions passed down through thousands of years of history with modern additions; and

WHEREAS, across the world there are similar and shared Lunar New Year traditions and practices between groups influenced by the dominant culture of China. For example, Chinese Lunar New Year is known as Spring Festival or Chunjié, the Korean New Year is Seollal, Vietnamese New Year is Tết, Mongolian New Year is Tsagaan Sar, etc. Common practices include an animal corresponding with the calendar year, food, drinks, altars and offerings for ancestor worship, gifts of “lucky money” in red envelopes, visits to temples and pagodas, firecrackers, fireworks displays, dances, songs, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the year 2023 is the year of the Rabbit for those following the traditional Chinese calendar and is the year of the Cat for those observing Vietnamese New Year (Tết) and the traditional Vietnamese calendar; and

WHEREAS, it is established that the AANHPI community and Lunar New Year observers are multi-ethnic and multi-racial, and Lunar New Year is celebrated by friends and families of all identities; and

WHEREAS, the AANHPI community is not a monolith, and we celebrate its diversity while simultaneously honoring the unique differences; and

WHEREAS, by observing Lunar New Year, we honor and stand with pride alongside our Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community, a community for everyone to celebrate without shame or fear of exclusion and violence based on food, features, language and customs; and

WHEREAS, these traditions are relevant and important to the well-being of AANHPI communities as many preserve these traditions in order to preserve the home they left in exchange for this United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County is committed to partnerships with community leaders organizing and creating solidarity among AANHPI groups and other BIPOC communities; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County condemns any racialized or hate driven violence targeting ethnic groups such as our AANHPI community. Since the COVID pandemic began, incidences of open anti-Asian hate have increased drastically across our nation, along with acts of violence, shootings and murders. Despite these acts of violence, the AANHPI community has proven strong and determined; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Contra Costa Lunar New Year celebration is a celebration of life, inviting renewal, prosperity, and release from difficult pasts in exchange for a future of love, acceptance, happiness, and joy; and

WHEREAS, the year 2023 reaffirms Contra Costa County’s commitment to creating a county where everyone is included and empowered to express the fullest extent of their joy; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County is committed to creating a county in which AANHPI can walk confidently in themselves, their families, names, customs, and cultures; and

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim this day February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, as “Lunar New Year Celebration of the year 2023” and are dedicated to creating an inclusive Contra Costa where all AANHPI can authentically thrive and prosper through substantive actions and equitable policies, procedures, and practices protecting the wellbeing of AANHPI community members.

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**JOHN GIOIA**

Chair, District I Supervisor

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**CANDACE ANDERSEN**

District II Supervisor

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**DIANE BURGIS**

District III Supervisor

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**KEN CARLSON**

District IV Supervisor

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**FEDERAL D. GLOVER**

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: February 7, 2023

Monica Nino, County Administrator

By: \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy