

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING THE HERCULES CHINESE ASSOCIATION ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND DECLARING FEBRUARY 26, 2019 AS CHINESE HERITAGE DAY IN THE CITY OF HERCULES

WHEREAS, the Chinese Association of Hercules was established in 1979 as a non-profit mutual benefit corporation organized to be primarily social in nature, with non-political, non-sectarian, and non-discrimination values; and

WHEREAS, the Association's purpose is to promote friendship and cooperation among its members and community, to foster pride in the City, to promote traditional Chinese culture and to provide a strong voice for the Chinese in the Hercules community; and

WHEREAS, the Association was started in 1979 with 6 families when the Hercules population was 5,963, it now consists of more than 250 members from Hercules, a population of 26,317 and surrounding communities, who participate in and support many city-sponsored events, such as community cleanup day, cultural festival, July 4th parade, and tree lighting ceremony; and

WHEREAS, the Association successfully raised funds for the Hercules Library and the Earthquake relief effort in China, has organized free health and safety seminars for its members and has initiated free classes at the Hercules Senior Center, including Tai Chi and Yuen Ji Chinese Dance; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the Association established the Academic Achievement Awards Program and renamed it in 2014 to the Susie Ko Academic Achievement Awards Program to recognize Grades 3-12 Association members, encouraging students to attend college and to promote community involvement. Since the program's inception, awards have been presented to more than 325 scholar recipients; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Chinese Association, in partnership with the Hercules Historical Society, installed a memorial plaque at Frog Pad Park dedicated to the memory of the Chinese workers who toiled under treacherous conditions at Hercules Powder Works, many of whom perished in explosions; and

WHEREAS, the year 2019 marks the 105th anniversary of the departure of the once indispensable immigrant and California-born Chinese workforce from the powder works plant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Dan Romero, Mayor of the City of Hercules, on behalf of the entire City Council and the Hercules community, do hereby recognize and congratulate the Hercules Chinese Association on their 40th anniversary and do hereby proclaim February 26, 2019 as Chinese Heritage Day in the City of Hercules.

I further call upon all citizens of Hercules to commemorate the 105th anniversary of the Chinese workforce's departure from the Hercules Powder Works plant, to celebrate the contributions made by Chinese residents' past and present and to recognize the valuable role played by the Chinese Association in Hercules.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Hercules to be affixed this twenty-sixth day of February 2019.

Dan Romero, Mayor