

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

January 23, 2024

AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Proclaiming Lunar New Year 2024 and Memorializing the One-Year Anniversary of the Star Ballroom Mass Shooting in the City of Monterey Park and Heroic Efforts of Brandon Tsay at the Lai Lai Ballroom in the City of Alhambra

The Lunar New Year is the most significant holiday in many Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) cultures, with 2024 being celebrated as the Year of the Dragon. The first day of the New Year is a time to honor deities and ancestors. This tradition has been observed for centuries throughout Asian and Pacific Islander cultures. It is a time for families to reunite, reflecting together on the past but also looking to the future and the successes that the coming year will bring. However, this Lunar New Year is also a moment of remembrance for all of Los Angeles County (County).

Two days ago, on January 21, Los Angeles County marked the one-year anniversary of the tragedy struck at the Star Ballroom in Monterey Park, taking the lives of 11 cherished community members and wounding 9 others. Additionally, another tragedy was narrowly avoided in the City of Alhambra. Due to the heroic efforts of

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Brandon Tsay, the gun man was unable to commit an additional act of violence at the Lai Lai Ballroom, saving countless lives. Subsequently, President Joseph Biden sent his Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Senior Liaison, Erika Moritsugu, to meet with the affected communities, victims' families, and survivors, along with a signed letter of condolences, sympathy, and hope. President Joseph Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris visited soon after, with the former, announcing his historic executive order on efforts to reduce gun violence—an executive order the County Board of Supervisors (Board) unanimously and overwhelmingly supported—in the city of Monterey Park. Brandon was also not only a guest of but was honored by President Biden at the 2023 State of the Union.

In the face of tragedy, all of Los Angeles County witnessed heroism and resilience in how the communities of the San Gabriel Valley and beyond came together, embodying many of the qualities that undoubtedly will be themes of the coming year. The entire world witnessed the communities of Monterey Park and Alhambra rise to the occasion, refusing to let tragedy define a community that has meant so much to generations of AAPI immigrants across the United States.

In the year of the Dragon, we remember those we lost last year but we also look ahead to continued healing and the sense of hope and renewal that lies ahead. In the Chinese Zodiac, the dragon represents various qualities including strength, dignity, and renewal. Indeed, this past year has shown the capacity for the communities of Los Angeles County that embody these values. Notably, the communities of the San Gabriel Valley came together in the aftermath of tragedy not only to heal and offer support to one another, but to also push for common sense gun safety legislation on a

national level, work that must continue to ensure that tragedies like this one do not befall any other communities across our nation. In response, the Board supported 16 different gun safety-related motions to support local, state, and federal policy reforms, last year alone.

As the Year of the Rabbit ends, we honor the work of individuals, community-based organizations, and government at all levels for upholding the highest ideals of dignity and strength. Just as the dragon itself also represents a spirit of renewal every 12 years, 2024 brings a sense of hope and renewal to the residents of the San Gabriel Valley and all of Los Angeles County.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim February 10, 2024 as the start of the Lunar New Year in Los Angeles County and join with our AAPI residents in ushering in the Year of the Dragon.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors recognize the cities of Monterey Park and Alhambra for their steadfast efforts in healing their communities in the aftermath of the tragedy which occurred at Star and Lai Lai Ballrooms on January 21, 2023.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors recognize the efforts of community-based organizations such as Advancing Justice Southern California (AJ SoCal), the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, and the Chinatown Service Center, along with our County Departments like the Department of Mental Health, the District Attorney's Victim Services Bureau, and the LA Sheriff's Department, and other local first responders, for their efforts in providing continued critical services and support for those affected by the tragedy.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct County Communications to promote all County Lunar New Year events on the County's website and social media platforms, including ensuring information is provided in highly utilized AAPI languages.
2. Direct the Department of Mental Health to promote mental health services and resources to AAPI communities that may have been directly or indirectly impacted by the mass shooting and ensuring information is provided in highly utilized AAPI languages.

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