Resolution recognizing September 21, 2021, as Korean Chuseok Day and honoring the Korean Center, Inc. for its contributions to the Korean American community in the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, Korean Chuseok Day, otherwise known as Korean Thanksgiving, is a harvest festival celebrated at the autumn equinox of the Lunar Calendar and is one of the most important and widely celebrated holidays in the Korean culture; and

WHEREAS, Korean Americans have contributed immeasurably to the culture and history of this city, state, and country; and

WHEREAS, Korean Americans are the fifth largest Asian American ethnic group in the United States, with a population of over 1.8 million and more than 500,000 in California alone; and

WHEREAS, In the San Francisco Bay Area, Korean Americans are the sixth largest Asian population with approximately 90,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has been a principal port of entry for Korean immigrants since the early 1900s and more recently since the repeal of restrictive immigration quotas in 1965; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has been a center of political activism and cultural importance for Korean Americans the late 19th century; and

WHEREAS, In 1883, Bobingsha, the first Korean diplomatic delegation dispatched to the United States, led by Prince Min Young-Ilk, had San Francisco as its first destination where the delegation stayed at the Palace Hotel located on 2 New Montgomery Street; and
WHEREAS, The Korean National Association was founded in San Francisco,
functioning as a de facto government in exile for Koreans rendered stateless in 1910; the
Association’s newspaper Shinhan Minbo provided knowledge and information to
immigrants even after Korea's liberation from Japan in 1945; and

WHEREAS, The Taedong Statue, located at Susan Bierman Park on the
Embarcadero, was donated in 1983 to the city of San Francisco by the government and
people of Korea to commemorate the centennial of diplomatic relations between Korea
and the United States and has since been continuously maintained by volunteers from the
San Francisco Korean seniors association (Korean American Senior Services, Inc.) for
the past twenty years; and

WHEREAS, The first Korean church in the United States, the San Francisco
Korean United Methodist Church, was built at 1123 Powell Street in 1928; and

WHEREAS, The composer, Ahn Eak-tai, went to his first service at this church and
was then inspired to compose what would become the Korean national anthem, Aegukga;
and

WHEREAS, The Korean American community's contributions are immeasurable
despite facing serious economic obstacles and social barriers, and

WHEREAS, The Korean Center, Inc., a non-profit, has served as a hub for Korean
cultural, educational, and social services in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1974, and

WHEREAS, Since its founding over 45 years ago, the Korean Center, Inc. has
helped newly arrived Korean immigrants, Korean families, and Korean seniors realize
their full potential, build community, and share Korean culture in San Francisco, and

WHEREAS, Expressed the need for the recognition of Korean Chuseok Day to
bring attention to the continued needs of the underserved Korean American community
as well as the contributions of Korean culture to the diverse landscape and life of San
Francisco; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the City and County of San Francisco shall recognize September 21, 2021, which is the 15th day of the 8th month of the Lunar Calendar as Korean Chuseok Day, and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Annual Bay Area Korean Chuseok Festival held by the Korean Center, Inc. in San Francisco is recognized as the city’s official celebration of the cultural day.
Resolution recognizing September 21, 2021, as Korean Chuseok Day and honoring the Korean Center, Inc. for its contributions to the Korean American community in the City and County of San Francisco.

September 21, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
   Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/21/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board