

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-0145**

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

May 27, 2014

### **REPEALING RESOLUTION 1943-207 RELATING TO THE INTERNMENT OF PEOPLE OF JAPANESE HERITAGE DURING WORLD WAR II**

#### **BACKGROUND**

- A. On December 8, 1941, at President Roosevelt's request, Congress declared war on the Empire of Japan and the United States entered World War II.
- B. On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which led to the internment of almost 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. Two-thirds of them were native-born American citizens and 70 percent were from California. They were forced to sell their belongings, leave their homes, and enter incarceration at 10 War Relocation Authority Camps in remote locales.
- C. On May 28, 1943, the Sacramento City Council adopted Resolution 43-207 that regretfully supported the imprisonment of people of Japanese heritage and endorsed the orders of General John L. DeWitt to intern people of Japanese heritage and prohibit their return to Sacramento.
- D. Despite forced imprisonment and pervasive prejudice, more than 33,000 Nisei, second-generation Japanese Americans, volunteered and were drafted to serve in the United States armed services during the war. Of these, 19,000 served in the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service, among the most decorated American units in World War II. In 2010, a bill awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the three units was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama.
- E. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to investigate whether the incarceration of people of Japanese heritage was justified. The Commission's Report, entitled "Personal Justice Denied," found little evidence of Japanese disloyalty and recommended the payment of reparations to WWII camp survivors.

- F. In 1988, President Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (Pub.L. 100-383 title I, August 10, 1988, 102 Stat. 904, 50a U.S.C. §1989b), that officially apologized for the imprisonment on behalf of the United States, concluding that the government's actions were based on "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership."
- G. Consistent with the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the incarceration of people of Japanese heritage during the Second World War, and local enactments supporting such imprisonment, were the result of wartime hysteria, race prejudice, and lack of political leadership. However, through oversight, the Sacramento City Council failed to repeal Resolution 43-207.

**BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Resolution 43-207 is hereby repealed.

Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on May 27, 2014, by the following vote:

Ayes: Members Ashby, Cohn, Fong, Hansen, McCarty, Pannell, Schenirer, Warren, and Mayor Johnson.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Attest:

**Shirley A. Concolino** Digitally signed by Shirley A. Concolino  
DN: cn=Shirley A. Concolino, o=City of Sacramento, ou=City  
Clerk, email=sconcolino@cityofsacramento.org, c=US  
Date: 2014.06.02 13:39:38 -07'00'

Shirley Concolino, City Clerk