



SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

**Department of Benefits
and Family Support**

P.O. Box 7988
San Francisco, CA
94120-7988
www.SFHSA.org

Human Services Commission
City and County of San Francisco

RESOLUTION HONORING COMMISSIONER GEORGE YAMASAKI, JR.

WHEREAS, Commissioner George Yamasaki, Jr. was appointed by Mayor Joe Alioto in September 1975 when the policy body was known as the San Francisco Social Services Commission; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Yamasaki is the longest serving Commissioner in San Francisco's history with over 46 years on the same Commission; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure on the Human Services Commission, he served as President in 1977, 1980, 1985-1987, 1992-1996, 2001-2003, and 2004-2007. He established the Employee of the Month program in March 1986 to recognize outstanding Department employees for creative, innovative or outstanding service to the Department. He created the George Yamasaki Scholarship fund to help foster children attend college, for which Mayor Gavin Newsom declared November 10, 2005, "George Yamasaki Day;" and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Yamasaki was a staunch supporter of the foster care system, and regularly attended the ILSP Foster Youth graduation ceremony, the foster parents' recognition events, and the Foster Youth Fund annual softball tournament; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Yamasaki was the Human Services Commission's self-appointed "nit-picker," noticing important details in contracts, keeping the meetings running according to the Good Government Guide & the Brown Act, and noticing important mistakes others missed; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Yamasaki was an active advocate and leader of the Japanese community in San Francisco before joining the Human Services Commission and during his tenure. He was Secretary and General Counsel with National-Braemar, Inc., the developer of San Francisco's Japan Center, from 1969-1973. He served as President of the Japanese American Citizens League, San Francisco Chapter, from 1971-1972. He was National Legal Counsel for the Japanese American Citizens League from 1974-1975. He especially enjoyed his work as Co-Chairman of the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival in 1974, 1977 and 1978, which then led to a lifetime of volunteering and emcee duties at the Festival. He was Director



London Breed
Mayor

Trent Rhorer
Executive Director



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of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California, a member of the Japantown Task Force Peace Plaza Committee, and Director Emeritus of the Japan Society of Northern California; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Yamasaki was involved with numerous nonprofits including serving as a member of the Executive Committee of the American Cancer Society California Division, Inc., Director of the California League for the Handicapped, Director of the International Institute of San Francisco, Trustee of the World Affairs Council of Northern California, Trustee of the Coro Foundation, Director of the San Francisco History Museum, Director of the Asian American Bar Association, and advisor to the National Japanese American Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Yamasaki devoted his career in private practice of the law, since 1960, specializing in matters relating to immigration and nationality; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Yamasaki resided in San Francisco since 1959 where he raised his two children; and be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Human Services Commission honors Commissioner George Yamasaki, Jr. for his many years of dedicated public service and for the impactful contributions he has made to the residents of the City and County of San Francisco.

The Human Services Commission approved this resolution at the February 17, 2022 special meeting.

Scott Kahn
Human Services Commission President