

Letter from Assemblymember Kansan Chu

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KANSEN CHU

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APPOINTMENTS
COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

August 21, 2020

The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor and
Members of the City Council
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers:

I am writing to urge the San José City Council to name Japantown's new park "Heinlenville Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

The park is located where the former Heinlenville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887.

At a time when many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, Heinlen's actions provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese sentiments and prejudice.

"Heinlenville Park" would serve as a tribute to the honorable Heinlen family and recognition of the Asian American community's roots.

Naming of this park Heinlenville is of great significance in preserving the culture and heritage of our city.

Thank you for considering this request, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (408) 262-2501.

Sincerely,

KANSEN CHU
Asssemblymember, 25th District