

M O T I O N

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Frances Hashimoto was born at the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona during World War II. After the war, the family returned to Little Tokyo where she spent much of her time at the family business. She graduated from the University of Southern California and worked as an elementary school teacher for four years, however due to family needs Ms. Hashimoto entered the family business full time, and began learning the art of making Japanese confections. In 1970, she became the CEO of the Mikawaya Japanese pastry company which also ultimately produced the now very popular Mochi Ice Cream. As a successful entrepreneur, Ms. Hashimoto has grown the company from a small neighborhood store into a large corporation with five retail branches.

The Mikawaya, has been offering traditional Japanese confectionaries to the communities in Southern California since 1910. Under Ms. Hashimoto's leadership, Mikawaya has expanded its operations significantly. Now its signature product, "Mochi Ice Cream," is sold in many Japanese restaurants and supermarkets all over the country, enabling many people to experience and appreciate the Japanese confectionary culture.

Due to her great passion for the community in which she grew, Ms. Hashimoto began her service in many local organizations and has served in many varying posts. From 1994 to 2008, Ms. Hashimoto served as the president of Little Tokyo Business Association. During her tenure The Little Tokyo Business Association was revitalized and continues proudly to serve the community. One of her numerous accomplishments is that she strengthened the ties between Little Tokyo and Minami Otsu Dori Shotengai in Nagoya by delegation exchanges, organizing fundraising for Nisei Week, arranging business seminars, and lobbying the city governments of both countries. She continues collaborating with many other Japanese-American organizations, the City of Los Angeles, and non-Asian businesses; Ms. Hashimoto is constantly promoting the revitalization of Little Tokyo. For all these efforts, the Government of Japan recently recognized her for her efforts to promote US Japan Relations with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays.

Ms. Hashimoto also served as the first female General Chairperson of Nisei Week Japanese Festival in 1982. In 1990, Ms. Hashimoto reinvented the festival by introducing more entertainment and by highlighting the rich cultural traditions of Japan. The performances attracted more spectators and participants to the festival and gave them all an opportunity to discover the charms of Little Tokyo and Japanese culture.

In recognition of Frances Hashimoto's remarkable career and service to the cultural life of the City, it is appropriate that the City honor his memory by naming the intersection at Azusa Street and Second Street, which currently has a tentative, preliminary name of "Cultural Plaza" as "**Frances Hashimoto Plaza**."

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection at Azusa Street and Second Street, as further described in the text of this Motion, be named as "**Frances Hashimoto Plaza**" and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial sign(s) to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY:

JAN C. PERRY

Councilwoman, 9th District

SECONDED BY:

Bernard C. Park

Joe H. H. H.

ORIGINAL