

MOTION

The San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center has served as a cultural cornerstone, intergenerational gathering space, and historic symbol of resilience for more than seven decades in the Pacoima community. Established in 1951 by Japanese American families returning from World War II incarceration camps, the Center stands as a testament to the perseverance, sacrifice, and community-building efforts of the Issei and Nisei pioneers who rebuilt their lives in the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

Following their forced removal during World War II, Japanese American families returned to the San Fernando Valley with limited resources. They lived in temporary housing, worked long hours, and collectively raised \$150,000 to support the creation of a permanent community home. In 1953, the founding members purchased the property on Branford Street, and on December 12, 1959, they dedicated the completed Center, which was built through both financial sacrifice and physical labor from community members.

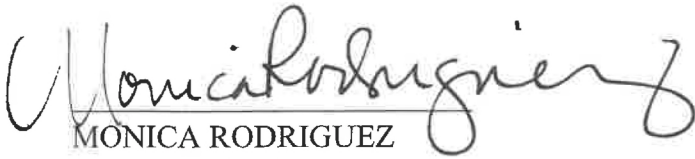
Over the decades, the Center has expanded to include classrooms, a gym, the Nikkei Pioneer Hall, and active community programming that serves seniors, youth, athletes, artists, and families. The Center hosts cultural events, sports leagues, music and dance classes, volunteer programs, and the annual Kohaku Judo Tournament. It is also known for its leadership in collective philanthropy, exemplified in 2011 when members, particularly its youth, helped raise \$110,000 to support survivors of the Japan earthquake and tsunami.

Today, the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center operates to preserve Japanese culture, promote the Japanese American experience, and provide a place for cultural exchange, education, celebration, and community pride in Pacoima and beyond.

In recognition of the historic contributions of the SFV-JACC and the Japanese-American legacy in the San Fernando Valley, it is deserving and long overdue that the intersection of Branford Street and Remick Avenue be named "Japanese American Community Center Square."

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection at Branford Street and Remick Avenue be named as **Japanese American Community Center Square** and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial signs to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

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