

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 64

Introduced by Assembly Member Allen

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Bigelow, Bradford, Chávez, Dickinson, Grove, Hagman, Harkey, Jones, Maienschein, Mansoor, Nazarian, Patterson, Waldron, and Wilk)

(Coauthors: Senators Beall, Nielsen, Wyland, and Yee)

June 6, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 64—Relative to Little Saigon.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 64, as introduced, Allen. Little Saigon.

This measure would recognize the 25th anniversary of Little Saigon.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In April 1975, the capitol of South Vietnam,
2 Saigon, fell to the Vietnamese communists, and over 38 years,
3 millions of Vietnamese fled communist oppression in their
4 homeland; and

5 WHEREAS, More than 1.5 million Vietnamese refugees became
6 permanent residents and citizens of the United States, and over
7 600,000 resettled in California; and

8 WHEREAS, In June 1988 Governor George Deukmejian
9 recognized the importance of Little Saigon as a major cultural,
10 social, and commercial center of southern California, and freeway
11 signs officially designating the Vietnamese business district in
12 Westminster and Garden Grove “Little Saigon” were unveiled;
13 and

1 WHEREAS, The signs gave official status to the title “Little
2 Saigon,” recalling the name of the South Vietnamese capital more
3 than a decade after it was changed to Ho Chi Minh City by the
4 communist government; and

5 WHEREAS, Vietnamese refugees have turned the strip along
6 the Magnolia Street-Bolsa Avenue corridor, an economically
7 depressed area that was formerly populated with strawberry fields,
8 old industrial factories, and vacant lots, into a thriving commercial
9 district with thousands of shops and businesses; and

10 WHEREAS, Little Saigon is the largest Vietnamese community
11 outside of Vietnam and is a destination for tourists and refugees
12 from all over the world; and

13 WHEREAS, The designation of Little Saigon in Orange County
14 represents the very first “Little Saigon” in the United States, and
15 now there are other Vietnamese business districts of various sizes
16 also named “Little Saigon” in Oakland, Sacramento, San Diego,
17 San Francisco, and San Jose in California, and in other states
18 including Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana,
19 Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, New York,
20 North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and
21 Virginia; and

22 WHEREAS, One can find all types of services and businesses
23 in Little Saigon ranging from restaurants, supermarkets, medical
24 clinics and centers, pharmacies, and law offices serving the
25 Vietnamese American community as well as other local and
26 surrounding area residents in Orange County; and

27 WHEREAS, With industrious drive and effective management,
28 particularly in food services and restaurants, prices and services
29 in Little Saigon are cheaper than in nearby areas, attracting not
30 only Vietnamese Americans, but other residents and immigrant
31 groups to visit; and

32 WHEREAS, Education is a priority to many Vietnamese
33 families, the achievements of Vietnamese students are recognized
34 in the Westminster and Garden Grove school districts, the
35 Vietnamese language is becoming one of the main foreign
36 languages being taught in those districts as well as in Orange
37 County community colleges, and as of 2008, in southern California
38 alone, there are more than 80 Vietnamese language centers teaching
39 17,000 students Vietnamese and Vietnamese culture; and

1 WHEREAS, Tet festivals and parades in Little Saigon
2 celebrating the Vietnamese lunar new year in early February have
3 attracted thousands of participants; and

4 WHEREAS, Vietnamese voters in Little Saigon are now a
5 significant voting bloc, and Vietnamese Americans are political
6 leaders on the city councils of Fountain Valley, Garden Grove,
7 and Westminster, and on the Orange County Board of Supervisors,
8 as well as on the school boards in districts serving these areas; and

9 WHEREAS, Tri Duc Ta was elected Mayor of Westminster on
10 November 6, 2012, and became the first Vietnamese American
11 elected mayor in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, The Vietnamese community in Little Saigon
13 pioneered many political movements demanding freedom in
14 Vietnam and fighting against the oppression and dictatorship
15 carried out by the totalitarian communist regime, which oppression
16 is the main reason for slow economic growth in Vietnam. The
17 Vietnamese community is launching a campaign demanding the
18 immediate release of all prisoners of conscience who mainly ask
19 that fundamental human rights be afforded to all of Vietnam's
20 citizens, and seek the separation of powers and removal of the
21 one-party system; now, therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
23 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the
24 25th anniversary of Little Saigon; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
26 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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