

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 15, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

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~~ Wilk, Alejo, Ammiano, Atkins, Bloom, Blumenfield, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Conway, Cooley, Dahle, Daly, Donnelly, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Hall, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Medina, Melendez, Mitchell, Morrell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Wagner, Weber, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

(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 amended, 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

1 WHEREAS, More than 1.5 million Vietnamese refugees became
2 permanent residents and citizens of the United States, and over
3 600,000 resettled in California; and

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, Little Saigon is the largest Vietnamese community
20 outside of Vietnam and is a destination for tourists and refugees
21 from all over the world; and

22 WHEREAS, The designation of Little Saigon in Orange County
23 represents the very first “Little Saigon” in the United States, and
24 now there are other Vietnamese business districts of various sizes
25 also named “Little Saigon” in Oakland, Sacramento, San Diego,
26 San Francisco, and San Jose in California, and in other states
27 including Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana,
28 Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, New York,
29 North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and
30 Virginia; and

31 WHEREAS, One can find all types of services and businesses
32 in Little Saigon ranging from restaurants, supermarkets, medical
33 clinics and centers, pharmacies, and law offices serving the
34 Vietnamese American community as well as other local and
35 surrounding area residents in Orange County; and

36 WHEREAS, With industrious drive and effective management,
37 particularly in food services and restaurants, prices and services
38 in Little Saigon are cheaper than in nearby areas, attracting not
39 only Vietnamese Americans, but other residents and immigrant
40 groups to visit; and

1 WHEREAS, Education is a priority to many Vietnamese
2 families, the achievements of Vietnamese students are recognized
3 in the Westminster and Garden Grove school districts, the
4 Vietnamese language is becoming one of the main foreign
5 languages being taught in those districts as well as in Orange
6 County community colleges, and as of 2008, in southern California
7 alone, there are more than 80 Vietnamese language centers teaching
8 17,000 students Vietnamese and Vietnamese culture; and

9 WHEREAS, Tet festivals and parades in Little Saigon
10 celebrating the Vietnamese lunar new year in early February have
11 attracted thousands of participants; and

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

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

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

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the
32 25th anniversary of Little Saigon; and be it further

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

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