

RESOLUTION

Proclamation on the 80th Anniversary of the Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act

WHEREAS, the Chinese Exclusion Act, signed into law in 1882, represented a dark chapter in American history by imposing discriminatory restrictions on Chinese immigration, perpetuating prejudice, and contributing to systemic inequality;

WHEREAS, the Chinese Exclusion Act was the first federal law in U.S. history that explicitly restricted immigration based on a specific nationality or ethnic group;

WHEREAS, the Chinese Exclusion Act was officially repealed on December 17, 1943, marking a significant moment in our nation's commitment to rectifying past injustices and promoting equality for all;

WHEREAS, the 80th anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act provides an important occasion for reflection on the progress made in dismantling discriminatory policies and advancing the principles of diversity, inclusion, and justice;

WHEREAS, the Chinese-American community has played an integral role in the growth and vibrancy of Chicago and the United States at large, contributing significantly to its cultural, economic, and social development;

WHEREAS, in 2021, Illinois became the first state in the country to require that Asian American history is taught in schools marking a groundbreaking step towards fostering a comprehensive educational curriculum; and

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Chicago that we commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act and reaffirm our commitment as a city to reject institutionalized discrimination and racism in all forms;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council pledges to work collaboratively with community leaders and organizations to address contemporary challenges facing the Chinese-American community and to promote policies that encourage continued collaboration in building a more harmonious and equitable future.



NICOLE T. LEE
11th Ward Alderperson