

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 21-17

**RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE TIBETAN COMMUNITY CENTER
(LOCATED IN RICHMOND), HONORING 2017 AS THE WORLDWIDE
TIBETAN ACTION YEAR, AND URGING THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT
TO PEACEFULLY RESOLVE THE CONFLICT IN TIBET**

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond is a Human Rights City and has adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as guiding principles; and

WHEREAS, Chinese officials have begun demolishing many of the monastic homes, most notably in Larung Gar, in the county of Sertar, in another attempt to shape and control Tibetan culture and religious life; and

WHEREAS, Larung Gar in Sertar has become increasingly prominent in both Tibet and China in recent years as a vital center for the study, practice and promotion of Buddhist teachings otherwise difficult to access or nonexistent in regular monasteries and nunneries due to restrictions put in place by the Chinese government; and

WHEREAS, several exile Tibetan groups have said local authorities distributed an order in June to reduce the number of monks and nuns by half to 5,000 where Government teams previously evicted thousands of monks in 2001, but the site has swelled significantly in the years since; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch issued a statement demanding that China suspend plans to demolish buildings at Larung Gar; and

WHEREAS, over 145 Tibetans have self-immolated in protest of the Chinese government's human rights abuses since 2009 and called for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama; and

WHEREAS, the Community Center of Tibetan Association of Northern California (TANC), which is located in the City of Richmond at 5200 Huntington Ave. (currently being renovated in phases), works to educate the population at large about the ongoing struggle for human rights in Tibet, as well as to preserve the culture and language of the Tibetan community; and

WHEREAS, we were honored to welcome to Richmond on February 23, 2014 His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who spoke at the Tibetan Community Center about the situation in Tibet to an overflowing audience at a highly-publicized event; and

WHEREAS, Tibet's pristine environment, controlled by the Chinese government, is being threatened by practices of mining, drilling, dam-building, deforestation, over-grazing, and an acceleration of climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Richmond City Council hereby urges the government of the People's Republic of China to respect Tibetan People's right to self-determination, to safeguard their human rights, to preserve Tibet's pristine environment, and to peacefully resolve the conflict in Tibet by responding positively to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's call for dialogue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 2017 be dedicated as “Tibet Action Year” to remind about the ongoing plight of Tibet so that the just cause of Tibet is not forgotten; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the City of Richmond honors the work of the Tibetan Association of North California and expresses our solidarity with the Tibetan people and the Tibetan support groups who are commemorating the 1959 Tibetan National Uprising Day on March 10, 2017.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held March 7, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Choi, Martinez, McLaughlin, Myrick, Willis, Vice Mayor Beckles, and Mayor Butt.
NOES:	None.
ABSTENTIONS:	None.
ABSENT:	None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN

CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

TOM BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 21-17**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on March 7, 2017.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond