



Proclamation

of the Mayor

of the City of Los Altos, California

WHEREAS, The Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, is viewed as the most important holiday on the Chinese calendar. More than a billion people around the world celebrate the Chinese New Year; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Chinese New Year is on February 12, 2021 and celebrations typically last 16 days, and include family gatherings, delicious food, gifts, fireworks, and well wishes. The focus is on setting the stage for a new year filled with happiness, good fortune, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese Lunar Calendar is made up of a cycle of twelve years, and each of them being named after an animal. This year marks the “Year of the Ox.” According to the Chinese calendar, 2021 is the “Year of the Metal Ox,” and Chinese astrology specialists believe babies born in the year of the “Metal Ox” are considered lucky. Metal symbolizes longevity, stability, self-control, and it is believed that those born this year will have plenty of great things in their lives; and

WHEREAS, New Year's Eve dinner is called 'reunion dinner', and is believed to be the most significant meal of the year. The family celebration is known as “surrounding the stove”, and the meal is arranged for the spirits of ancestors, together with the living and represents past and present, and one strong community; and

WHEREAS, Most of the rituals and traditions associated with the holiday involve a clean slate and new beginnings. Gifts are exchanged during Chinese New Year, and the tradition is to gift a red packet or envelope filled with money. Red symbolizes good luck throughout the New Year; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese New Year is a time of joy and renewal, and a time to illustrate the rich cultural history and diversity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Neysa Fligor, as Mayor and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby recognize and honor Chinese New Year 2021, the Year of the Ox, and wish all that celebrate good fortune, health and happiness.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Los Altos this 23rd day of February 2021.

Neysa Fligor , MAYOR