A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE (JACL) RELATING TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE JAPANTOWN OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

WHEREAS, the diverse cultural composition of any community adds to the historical value of the long term balanced development of that community, and

WHEREAS, Japanese immigrants have had an integral part in the economic and social development of Utah and other Western states, before, during, and after World War II, and

WHEREAS, there has been a traditional bias against Asian cultures through immigration exclusion and land ownership restriction, and

WHEREAS, while World War II brought additional unjust racism, prejudice, and discrimination toward Americans of Japanese descent and the immigrants from Japan, and

WHEREAS, the Utah Japanese American population thrived and enhanced a significant Japantown section of Salt Lake City, and

WHEREAS, during this time Salt Lake City’s Japantown became a major cultural, social, religious, and economic center for the Japanese American community, and

WHEREAS, through eminent domain, the local governments of Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County dissolved the major part of Japantown as it once existed through the creation of a
convention center in the 1960s, which resulted in the closing of most activities centered in
Japantown, and

WHEREAS, there are current revitalization plans for that section of Salt Lake City that have
been authorized by the State of Utah for The Smith Entertainment Group and Salt Lake City to
develop a sports entertainment section in that area, and

WHEREAS, members of the Japanese American community of Utah, Utah JACL Youth, the
Utah JACL Chapters, Religious Organizations, and other community organizations are working
to preserve and enhance that section of Salt Lake City as Japantown, and

WHEREAS, the younger and future generation of Japanese Americans need to have an
understanding of the value that their culture and heritage played in the development of the
United States of America,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the National Council of the JACL that the
Japanese American history and culture should be recognized and be an important part of the
revitalization through maintaining existing institutions and providing for the enhancement of
showing the history and culture of the Japanese American community of Utah.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National JACL supports this effort to preserve and
revitalize the Japantown of Salt Lake City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, JACL send copies of this resolution to Salt Lake City City
Council Chair Victoria Petro, Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Salt Lake City County
Council Chair Laurie Stringham, Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson, Utah State House
Speaker Mike Shultz, and Utah State President J. Stuart Adams communicating JACL’s support
of Salt Lake City’s Japantown.

Sponsored by: Ethan Hirabayashi, Mount Olympus Chapter

Kelly Asao, Salt Lake City Chapter Dated: July 10, 2024

Approved by: Lisa Shiosaki Olsen, IDC Governor

Contact: Floyd Mori Email: sfloyd.mori@gmail.com Phone: 801-556-4117

Ethan Hirabayashi Email: ehiraa24@gmail.com Phone: 801-699-3610
Please check one:

___ X Fiscal Impact Statement attached

___ No Fiscal Impact (meaning that the resolution does not call for any action that will be carried out by JACL staff, or incur any costs to JACL)

Note: The proposal must include signatures of three (3) delegates from (3) different districts not including that of the proponent (signatures on file):

Name: Emily Murase, San Francisco Chapter, NCWNP District

Name: Chip Larouche, Gresham-Troutdale Chapter, PNW District

Name: Kim Hirose Tobe, Washington, D.C. Chapter, EDC District