



Legislation Text

File #: Res 0424-2022, **Version:** A

Res. No. 424-A

Resolution calling on the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, H.R. 430, establishing Lunar New Year Day as a Federal holiday.

By Council Members Ung, Lee, Krishnan, Hanif, Won, Ossé, Yeger, Schulman, Hanks, Avilés, De La Rosa, Dinowitz, Brannan, Cabán, Farías, Hudson, Narcisse, Gennaro, Carr, Ariola, Borelli, Paladino, Vernikov, Kagan and the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams)

Whereas, Lunar New Year begins on the second new moon after the winter solstice, or typically on a date from late January through mid-February, and concludes 15 days later on the next full moon; and

Whereas, Lunar New Year, with its origins more than 4,000 years ago in China, is one of the most important annual celebrations in many East and Southeast Asian cultures that use a lunisolar calendar; and

Whereas, Although Asian cultures call this celebration by their own names, such as Spring Festival in China, the inclusive term Lunar New Year is now used to encompass festivals and festivities across many Asian cultures, including Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Taiwanese, Malaysian, and more; and

Whereas, Lunar New Year is now celebrated worldwide in many countries, wherever communities with populations of Asian heritage exist; and

Whereas, a growing number of Asian Americans and new Asian immigrants has increased awareness of Lunar New Year in the United States (U.S.); and

Whereas, According to figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, as reported by the New York City (NYC) Department of City Planning in “2020 Census: Results for New York City,” almost 1.4 million residents identifying solely as Asian live in NYC and make up more than 15 percent of NYC’s population; and

Whereas, According to U.S. Census figures, the Asian population in Queens grew by 29 percent and in Brooklyn by 43 percent between 2010 to 2020; and

Whereas, Although different Asian cultures celebrate in their own ways, Lunar New Year festivities usually include traditional foods; cultural performances; parades, street fairs, and fireworks displays; and the giving of gifts or money in red envelopes to wish others good fortune, health, and prosperity; and

Whereas, Many Asian Americans travel to spend Lunar New Year with immediate and extended family, often participating in rituals to honor their ancestors, and contribute to what is the world's largest annual movement of humans at more than one billion, according to National Geographic; and

Whereas, Asian-American communities in NYC often host Lunar New Year events that attract New Yorkers of all racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds from many communities to enjoy the festivities in Flushing in Queens, in Chinatown in Manhattan, and in other neighborhoods, thus benefitting small businesses in those communities; and

Whereas, In June 2015, Mayor Bill de Blasio designated Lunar New Year a public school holiday, celebrated for the first time in 2016; and

Whereas, The increase in anti-Asian hate crimes in the U.S. has caused concerned citizens and government officials to look for ways to fight against anti-Asian bigotry and to support our Asian-American communities; and

Whereas, The designation of a federal holiday honors the vital role that our Asian-American communities play in NYC and their positive impacts on our culture and economy; and

Whereas, Federal legislation (H.R. 430) was introduced on January 20, 2023, in the U.S. House of Representatives by Representative Grace Meng (D-NY-6), along with 57 cosponsors, to establish Lunar New Year Day as a Federal holiday; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, H.R. 430, establishing Lunar New Year Day as a Federal holiday.

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1/23/2023
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