

Monday, February 6, 2023

Honorable Dr. Suely Saro
Councilwoman of Sixth District
411 W. Ocean Blvd, 11th Floor
Long Beach, Ca 90802

Dear Councilwoman Dr. Suely Saro,

As your long term faithful and strong supporter, I am very proud and satisfied to see you as the first ever Khmer young woman to get elected as the City Councilwoman of the 6th District. I always admire your hard work and dedication for the betterment of your constituents in that area that was overlooked in the past decades. Even with my current challenges of my eye health problems, I am doing everything I possibly can to get involved to help in the community.

Recently, some grandparents and parents mentioned to me that your office will make plans to celebrate our Cambodian New Year on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at LBCC in the Pacific Coast Campus. I was so happy to hear that. However, they said they are not so excited to participate in the event because the event has a new name. The Celebration of our Cambodian New Year (បុណ្យចូលឆ្នាំខ្មែរ) will change to a new name as "Sangkranta". I am not sure if this is correct because I didn't see any paperwork with my own one eye!

If this is true, I would like to let you know that I will not be happy with it, and I will not support this change because I was a high school teacher in the 2nd prominent high school in Phnom Penh, Cambodia before the war, I not only knew from the Cambodian history, but from my great-grandparents and grandparents only the name of Bon Chaul Chhnam Khmer (បុណ្យចូលឆ្នាំខ្មែរ) and now I am about to reach 80, I would not want to see any sudden change of the traditional name that is part of our culture and history that has been celebrated for centuries to reflect the society and the way of life of our ancestors to the present time.

For this reason, I would like to let you know that I will not support the changing of our traditional Cambodian New Year (បុណ្យចូលឆ្នាំខ្មែរ) to "Sangkranta" at all! As a resident of the 6th District and a former high school teacher, I would like to humbly ask you to reconsider changing Cambodian New Year to Sangkranta. Cambodians have lost so much over the years, with every change to our traditions, we lose another piece of what it means to be Cambodian.

I am looking forward to celebrating the Cambodian New Year (បុណ្យចូលឆ្នាំខ្មែរ), not "Sangkranta" on Saturday, April 1, 2023 together with Cambodian people, near and far and our friends and neighbors from diverse communities.

Respectfully yours,



6th District resident
1069 Cerritos Ave.
Long Beach, Ca., 90813

February 13, 2023

Dear honorable 6th District Councilwoman Dr. Suely Saro,

According to the meeting that you had prepared for Sunday, January 29, 2023 at Sam Limon's resident, you had explained the goal, objectives, and the reason why Sagnkranta is the best choice, and you have made it clear that you will use "Sangkranta" instead of keeping our Cambodian Cultural identity of "The Cambodian New Year."

To paraphrase what you said at the meeting, "I am a Council and I have the power to do what I want and I am responsible for my mistake if anyone doesn't like it." Some members of your own committee including myself, Charles Song, Mr. Tippana Tith, and the Cambodian residents of the 6th district, the city of Long Beach, and the surrounding cities disagreed with your plan, therefore we request you to reconsider it.

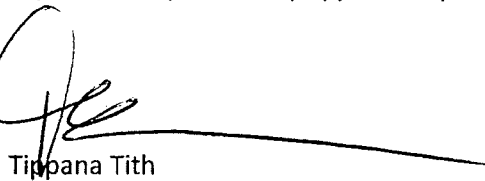
We do believe you have an excellent goal, and objectives, but we do not believe you should change our Cambodian cultural identity and history of the Cambodian New Year that was created since 7th century 637 AD just because you received feedback from other ethnic groups. You can create a welcoming environment for all people from other cultures without changing our Cambodian culture because other groups such as other Asians, Blacks, and Latinos and other nationalities celebrate their own cultures and embraces their own heritage. Cambodians and Cambodian Americans have always embraced our diverse communities by attending and volunteering for other minority's community events, including Blacks, Latinos, Pacific Islanders, Thais and Laotians since the resettlement of our Cambodian people in the city of Long Beach over 40 years ago. It's a cross cultural event when they invite us to their events and we invite them to our events, as well. In fact, the first Cambodian New Year was organized by the Cambodian Association of America on April 1976 at Recreation Park on 7th and Park Avenue, Long Beach, California and there after tens of thousands of people came from all over the United State to celebrate our Cambodian New Year at the El Dorado Park, and other people from different cultures have participated in the Cambodia Town Parade every year.

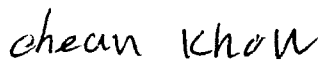
Your consideration to keep the name "The Cambodian New Year" will allow all of us to reunite the community to make sure that we work together to ensure performers and participants from different cultures will have the best experience ever at the first Cambodian New Year 2023 host by the 6th District Councilwoman Dr. Suely Saro.

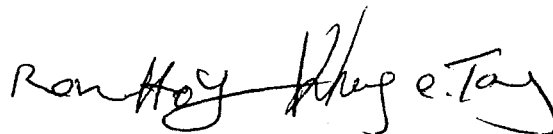
We look forward to receiving a positive response from you within 5 business days, Honorable Councilwoman Dr. Suely Saro. We profoundly appreciate your kind response back to us.

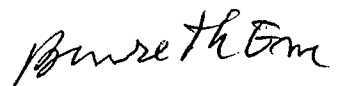
Sincerely;

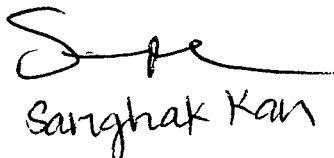

Charles Song


Tippana Tith


Chean Khon


Ran Hoy Kheng e. Tay


Bunsreth Eom


Sanghak Kan

Please see attachment on page 2

Page 1

Kim Sreng Ung ~~Noroo~~ Samley Nep ~~Hot~~

~~Namly song~~ ~~Sally~~ Salla onay KIM TORU Kim S. Ste

Samboun Prong Sanku Fay Sambal Prong Sald Pas Sang Sun Lin
Nony cum Non on vouchloru Tay he Jenny Ngea Jang Top

Sophoc SON Heark. sron S. Homsa Si - Su SOPHAL Lora

Chantha PICH ~~B~~ ~~Zi~~ ~~Orno~~

~~Kim Dang Son~~ Longhour ~~Bannic chh~~

~~Jan Voorg~~ - ~~Muly. hecal~~ ~~Umsu~~

~~Ms MEALY SAM~~ ~~Yubsoem~~ ~~Heffok~~

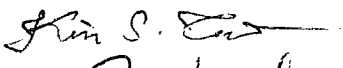
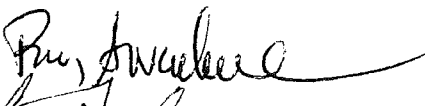


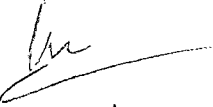
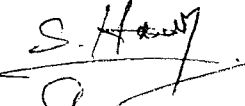

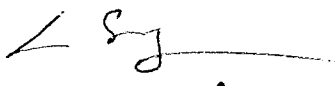







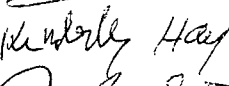
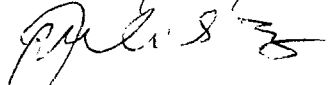
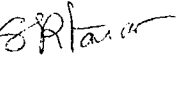
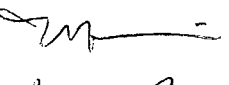



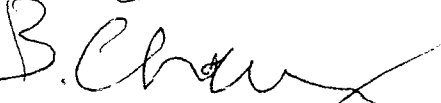
~~Reay Soll.~~ ~~Yemvan~~ ~~Triphaka~~

Roth Pram ~~Yuanhatt~~ Kim Kien - ~~Pich yaru~~

~~Son Serey~~ ~~Neathunpich~~ ~~Carer~~ ~~Glampis~~

~~Deakay An~~ ~~Chisop's~~ ~~Opauk~~

I voluntarily sign this petition to preserve the name "Cambodian New Year Celebration"

- 1- KIM S-TORN 
- 2- Sovachana Pou 
- 3- Laura Lau 
- 4- Linda Kien 
- 5- VOUDLOM TUY 
- 6- HEARK SVON 
- 7 MEY, Sokhany 
- 8 Sorn Lim 
- 9 Kerry Chhay 
- 10- sokha Neang 
- 11- BUNNY UN 
12. Yun Tuy 
- 13 Sath Yun 
14. Bunna Man 
15. YAM- LANN 
- 16 - Kemberly HAY 
- 17 - Julia Vong 
- 18 - Rita SISOWATH 
- 19 - RONNIE Math 
- 20 - ROTH PROM 
- 21 - Hark. Kao 
- 22 - Soda many 
23. Tan Bun-Chay 

I voluntarily sign this petition to preserve the name "Cambodian New Year Celebration"

24 Sopha Meng

Sopha

25 Kheng Tang

Kheng Tang

26 Dway Chan Jossay

~~Dway Chan Jossay~~

27 Nguyen Tien

Nguyen Tien

28 THONGSY Khuan

~~THONGSY Khuan~~

29 Sarik Kang

Sarik Kang

30 Roxha Mead

Roxha Mead

31 Tunn Chin

Tunn Chin

32 CHHENSAMAY CHHUN

CHHENSAMAY CHHUN

33 CHRIS HOR

CHRIS HOR

34 Samley Nep

Samley Nep

35 Ann Toun

Ann Toun

36 Tim Tea

Tim Tea

37 SOPHIE WHERITT

Sophie Wheritt

38 KEATHA KONG

Keatha Kong

39 Thank Kim

Thank Kim

40 CHUON KONG

CHUON KONG

41 SONY SOM

Sony Som

42 Tippama Tak

Tippama Tak

43

44

45

Sunday, March 5, 2023

Honorable Dr. Suely Saro
Councilwoman of the Sixth District
411 W. Ocean Blvd, 11th Floor
Long Beach, Ca 90802

Subject: Proposed name change to "Cambodian New Year (Sangkranta)".

Dear Councilwoman Dr. Suely Saro,

I am writing another letter to you again because I learned that our Khmer Community is deeply divided due to the planning of the Cambodian New Year Celebration this year has abandoned the traditional name from Cambodian New Year to Long Beach Sangkranta 2023.

As a parent and a public servant and a Community leader who contributes so much to the city and to the community, I would like to see harmony, peace and unity among our own Khmer Community by having everyone join together to happily celebrate our Cambodian New Year like we did since 1976 in Long Beach. It is so painful to see the fracture of our community due to the sudden change of Cambodian New Year to Long Beach Sangkranta 2023.

I would like to ask you to think deeply and reconsider again to bring everyone together by adopting the name "Cambodian New Year (Sangkranta)".

I think this name will give both sides satisfaction and a sense of belonging, so they are happy to celebrate our traditional New Year Celebration together with pride and dignity. Your reconsideration to adopt Cambodian New Year (Sangkranta) will be a great role model for our young people, our children and grandchildren to profoundly appreciate your leadership.

I am looking forward to celebrating the Cambodian New Year (Sangkranta) on Saturday, April 1, 2023 and make it a glorious and memorable event.

Respectfully yours,



Chan Hopson
6th District resident
1069 Cerritos Ave.
Long Beach, Ca. 90813