

**Little Tokyo Community Council**

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January 22, 2025

Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez  
Chair, Public Works Committee  
200 N. Spring St., Room 401  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File No. 24-1442

Dear Members of the Public Works Committee,

On behalf of the Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC), I am writing to you today in support of Council File No. 24-1442, which authorizes the fabrication and installation of a double-sided historical monument sign on a streetlight pole recognizing the first ramen restaurant in the city of Los Angeles, Kouraku.

Established in 1999, the LTCC is the non-profit community coalition for Little Tokyo, with a broad representation of residents, businesses, religious, cultural, and community organizations as well as other vested stakeholders in the Little Tokyo community. LTCC advocates on behalf of the Little Tokyo community, and works to protect, promote, and preserve the unique cultural and historic district. Last year Little Tokyo celebrated hitting the milestone of 140 years in existence, and as one of 3 remaining historic Japantowns, it continues today to be an important cultural and business center for Japanese Americans, as well as the broader AAPI community, in Southern California.

We are excited to celebrate the recognition of a beloved Little Tokyo legacy business and institution - Kouraku. Kouraku has a long history in Little Tokyo, starting with its founder, Hiroshi Yamauchi - a longtime, dedicated Little Tokyo community member. His restaurant grew to become a mainstay of Little Tokyo, introducing ramen to multiple generations. Yamauchi was a staunch advocate for the community and small businesses until his passing during the pandemic - the community was fortunate to have current owner, Mamoru Tokuda, step up and continue Kouraku on for future generations to enjoy.

We thank you for consideration of this recognition, and appreciate your time. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there are any further questions.

Sincerely,

Kristin Fukushima  
Executive Director

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The Little Tokyo Community Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) community coalition representing the interests of Little Tokyo, with membership from businesses, residents, community organizations, religious institutions, and other vested stakeholders in the Little Tokyo community.

