

Short 1:

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." "Heinlerville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Heinlerville Chinatown that used to exist there and honor the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in local history.

Thank you,
[Your name]

Short 2:

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park." The park is located where the former Heinlerville Chinatown was from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this community after its creator John Heinlen, who provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese sentiment.

Also, "Sakura Park" intensifies the stereotype that Japanese culture revolves around cherry blossoms. Japanese customs extend further than a pretty tree. I urge you to pick the name "Heinlerville Park" that commemorates Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) history and culture, not trivializes it.

Thank you,
[Your name]

Medium:

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

The park is located where the former Heinlerville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887.

At a time when many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, Heinlen's actions provided a home for many Chinese Americans and directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

"Heinlerville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, the honorable Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history.

Thank you,
[Your name]

Long:

Hello,

I strongly urge you to name Japantown's new park "Heinlerville Park" instead of "Sakura Park."

The park is located where the former Heinlerville Chinatown existed from 1887 to 1931. San Joséans named this Chinatown after John Heinlen, a businessman who built a community for the former inhabitants of the Market Street Chinatown after arson destroyed it in 1887. Heinlen's actions directly countered anti-Chinese people, who believed in the "Yellow Peril."

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied naturalization and U.S. citizenship of the Chinese, legalizing discrimination against them and revealing our government's Sinophobia. The act was the first and only federal legislation to prohibit immigration for a specific race. In the midst of this blatant racism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Chinese families were driven out of several West Coast cities, and Heinlerville became a home for them.

Besides the history behind the name "Heinlerville Park," the name "Sakura Park" intensifies stereotypical correlations between Japan and cherry blossoms. Japanese culture extends further than a pretty tree.

"Heinlerville Park" would serve as a tribute to the Chinatown, honor the humanitarian John Heinlen family and recognize the Asian American (Chinese, Japanese and Filipino) community's roots in history. I urge you to pick the name that commemorates Asian culture, not trivializes it.

Thank you,
[Your name]