



CITY OF OAKLAND

## MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** May 11, 2023  
**TO:** City Council and Members of the Public  
**FROM:** Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas, District 2  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution Renaming Alice Street Between Ninth and Tenth Street To “Sherry Hirota Way”, In Honor Of Her Contributions Dedication, And Service To Health Equity For Asians and Pacific Islander Americans And The Broader Oakland And Bay Area Community.

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Dear City Council Colleagues and Members of the Public,

It is my honor to respectfully request the Council adopt the following resolution: Resolution Commemoratively Renaming Alice Street Between Ninth and Tenth Street as “Sherry Hirota Way” Pursuant to the Policy and Criteria Established By Resolution No. 77967 C.M.S.

Sherry Hirota was the founding Chief Executive Officer at Asian Health Services, which started in 1976 from just a storefront in Oakland Chinatown. Over the past 47 years, Ms. Hirota led the clinic to become the high-quality community health center it is today, with 12 sites, employing 450 community members, and serving 50,000 patients in 12 languages.

Ms. Hirota built a powerhouse of advocacy and health care equity for Asians and Pacific Islander Americans (AAPI) at the local, state, and national level. She founded two of the nation’s first Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander health organizations. She pioneered awareness and legislation of AAPI health needs, and in doing so, strengthened alliances for Minority Health and the nation’s attention to health disparities for all people of color and the underserved.

Leading in building coalitions and practicing true and deep solidarity have been major contributions of Sherry Hirota to the unity of the Bay Area’s diverse communities. Whether organizing in the wake of budget cuts from Proposition 13, or the threat of the “public charge” rule on non-citizens access to quality health care, Ms. Hirota has diligently forged alliances and joint advocacy with Native American, Latinx, African American, and LGBTQ serving health centers and community-based organizations.

Ms. Hirota’s leadership is felt through community-driven advocacy and work to promote a thriving Chinatown. She orchestrated efforts to install the City’s first “scramble system” to promote pedestrian safety where numerous elderly people in Chinatown had been hit by cars and killed. Ms. Hirota was instrumental in alerting BART to the environmental impact and community development needs in their Lake Merritt BART Station Area plans.

I'd like to thank Sherry Hirota for being a dedicated and exemplary leader, for her years of service and contributions to health and community equity, for being a chamber in the beautiful heart of our AAPI communities, and as is fitting, the location of the commemorative street renaming, Alice Street — between 9th and 10th Streets, is in the heart of Oakland Chinatown.

I'd also like to thank Asian Health Services staff and leadership for partnering with my office to spearhead this effort to celebrate and honor Sherry Hirota with this effort.

Lastly, Asian Health Services is hosting a celebration for Sherry Hirota on Saturday, July 15th at 5:30pm at the Oakland Museum of California. I invite you to join me at this event when we also hope to have the new signs installed.

For questions regarding this memo, please contact Amaya Lin, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas, at [AJLin@OaklandCa.Gov](mailto:AJLin@OaklandCa.Gov).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nikki 7 Bas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Nikki Fortunato Bas  
Council President, District 2