



## Legislation Text

---

**File #:** Res 31591, **Version:** 1

---

### **CITY OF SEATTLE** **RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

A RESOLUTION recognizing the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom flag as the symbol for Seattle's Vietnamese community.

WHEREAS, the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag consists of a yellow field with three horizontal red stripes in the middle and was the flag of former South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Seattle is home to more than 10,000 Vietnamese Americans, the second largest foreign-born immigrant community in Seattle, and the state of Washington is home to more than 70,000 Vietnamese Americans; and

WHEREAS, April 30, 2015 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, many Vietnamese allies fled after the United States left Vietnam on April 30, 1975, and former Governor Dan Evans and the great people of the state of Washington welcomed and aided thousands of Vietnamese refugees; and

WHEREAS, these refugees lost their homes and their home country and had no place to go because they faced persecution for fighting alongside the United States in pursuit of freedom and the liberties valued by the United States; and

WHEREAS, the first refugees arrived at Camp Murray near Fort Lewis; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington helped fund the first Vietnamese-language newspaper in the country called Dat Moi meaning "new land," providing valuable information to refugees; and

WHEREAS, although the majority of Vietnamese immigrants were located in underdeveloped urban

neighborhoods, they nevertheless established strong vibrant communities in a short period of time, rebuilding their lives and becoming proud American citizens; and

WHEREAS; in the United States, approximately 13 state governments, seven counties, and 85 cities have adopted resolutions to recognize the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle passed Resolution 24896, 24900, and 24913 from April 21, 1975 to May 12, 1975, welcoming Vietnamese refugees to Seattle and instructing City agencies to cooperate with private and federal agencies in helping refugees; and

WHEREAS, the history, arts, economy, food, and culture of the City of Seattle have been significantly influenced by local Vietnamese Americans whose customs and traditions are respected and celebrated; and

WHEREAS, the business district that is Seattle's Little Saigon has been the economic and social center of the Vietnamese community since the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming consensus of Seattle's Vietnamese population is that the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom flag is a unifying symbol of a vibrant, energetic, engaged, and prosperous future for the Vietnamese community in Seattle; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR  
CONCURRING, THAT:**

Section 1. The City of Seattle honors its local Vietnamese community's history, contributions, and achievements and recognizes the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag as the symbol for the Vietnamese community in Seattle.

Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

The Mayor concurred the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)