

RESOLUTION IN CELEBRATION OF TIBETAN NEW YEAR, OR LOSAR

WHEREAS, Losar is an important holiday for Tibetans all around the world, including the many Tibetans who have embraced and called Somerville their home for the last three decades; and

WHEREAS, it is a little known fact that some of the first Tibetan refugees to come to the United States as part of a historic resettlement program in the 1990s settled in Somerville, many in and around the Teele Square area; and

WHEREAS, over one hundred Tibetan Somervilians, including students, alumni and parents, as well as small business owners, local activists, and municipal employees, have signed a letter calling on the City of Somerville to celebrate Losar at this critical moment when the very survival of Tibetan language and culture is under threat in Tibet itself; and

WHEREAS, for close to thirty years, as political exiles who fled persecution in Tibet, Tibetans have been trying their best to sustain their distinct national and cultural identity in the growing Somerville community; and

WHEREAS, this is especially important because in Tibet today, Tibetans are not allowed to practice their religion and culture freely, and are facing immense cultural suppression; NOW BE IT

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, That the Somerville School Committee stands in solidarity with Somerville's Tibetan residents, AND FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the Somerville School Committee wishes for a joyful celebration of Losar, the Tibetan New Year, on March 3, 2022.

VOTED: Unanimously
DATE: February 28, 2022
BT THE: Somerville School Committee