



Legislation Text

File #: 10430, **Version:** 1

Fiscal Note

No appropriation required.

Title

Proclaiming May 31, 2008, as "Choua Her Day" in Madison.

Body

WHEREAS, Choua Her began working for the Madison Metropolitan School District in November 1999 as a school liaison to the Southeast Asian (SEA) communities; and

WHEREAS, she has since built a strong community not just in Madison, but also in the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, she started district-wide events, such as annual sports and academic tournaments and talent shows, which now draw participation from neighboring districts including Monona Grove, Sun Prairie, Verona, Waunakee and Middleton; and

WHEREAS, these events, many of which she coordinates on her own time after school hours, involve hundreds of students who not only participate but also learn the organizational and leadership skills necessary to plan and implement them; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Her is also at the center of many local projects for the advancement of the Southeast Asian community and is an excellent role model, showing students how to get the things they want and need by working through the system; and

WHEREAS, she is a strong advocate for the Southeast Asian community and, most especially, our large local Hmong community, acting as a potent force for the healthy adjustment and integration of Southeast Asian students in our local community; and

WHEREAS, she is an excellent resource and teacher for those of us who are not of Asian descent or are not familiar with Asian families and their traditions; and

WHEREAS, she was instrumental in the creation and delivery of the Hmong language class for native speakers at East High School and in the Hmong New Year celebrations at the school, which are now embraced by the whole student body; and

WHEREAS, she is also helping to coordinate the first Hmong spelling and word bee in the Madison area which will take place on "Her" day, May 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, she is a coordinator of the SEA Attendance Initiative, which is to investigate and find ways to improve attendance by Southeast Asian students in the Madison Metropolitan School District; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Her has been instrumental in the delivery of several key events in the local Southeast Asian community, including the Asian College and Career Fair, special presentations on Southeast Asian culture and history, like Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt's "Tragic Mountains," and presentations by national educational specialists, such as Tou Ger Xiong;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Madison proclaim May 31, 2008, as "Choua Her Day."