

Borough of Bradley Beach Proclamation

Chinatown by the Sea Proclamation

Whereas, Chinese Americans first came to Bradley Beach circa 1923 when the Church of All Nations, a Methodist Settlement House on New York City's Lower East Side, took over Cliff Villa at 110 Cliff Avenue as a summer getaway for immigrants eager to escape the teeming, hot city streets; and

Whereas, Chinese Americans stayed at Cliff Villa during the first few weeks of every summer and eventually began renting rooms for themselves for the entire season in the 1930s; and

Whereas, Chinese Americans began buying homes in Bradley Beach following the purchase of a bungalow on Newark Avenue for \$2,000 in 1943 by Lee Ng Shee, wife of Lee B. Lok, a successful Chinatown merchant; and

Whereas, Newark Avenue, considered by many as the equivalent of Mott Street in NYC's Chinatown, became the epicenter of Chinese American life down the shore; and

Whereas, Chinese Americans have a deep, abiding connection to Bradley Beach; and

Whereas, Chinese Americans contribute to the rich diversity of Bradley Beach, a special seaside town that first welcomed them and made them feel comfortable a century ago;

Now, therefore be it here proclaimed, that the Mayor and Council of Bradley Beach do recognize as part of the 130th anniversary of the Borough's founding, the designation of "Chinatown by the Sea" to encompass Newark Avenue, Cliff Avenue, and neighboring streets that generations of Chinese Americans have called home.

Dated: August 16, 2023