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MAJOR LAS VEGAS RESORT SUPPORTS LOCAL JAPANESE FESTIVAL

HENDERSON, Nevada — Big NEWS!!!! The **Japanese Festival Association of Nevada (JFAN)** is proud to announce **MGM Resorts Japan** as the title sponsor for the **9th Annual Aki Matsuri Japanese Festival!** This year's event will return to the **Henderson Events Plaza** for the third year in a row on **Saturday, October 20, 2018** from **11am to 9pm**. **FREE ADMISSION** as always. In addition to the support from MGM Resorts Japan, Aki Matsuri has gained sponsorship funds from the **Japan Foundation, Los Angeles**, and from the **Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco**.

This year's event promises entertainment from local groups performing traditional and contemporary Japanese arts like elegant **Japanese dance**, a **karaoke contest**, thrilling **martial arts**, deadly **samurai sword demonstrations**, and thunderous **taiko drumming**. One of the local taiko groups, **Las Vegas Kaminari Taiko** will be celebrating their 25th anniversary! Plus, we welcoming back our performing guests from Japan, the **Menkoi Girls**, **Puppetion** and **Soul Splash Crew!** The evening will conclude with the crowd pleasing dance known as **bon odori!**

General vendors will be on hand, as well as a kid's corner with traditional Japanese activities, **sake tasting** for the adults and, of course, **Japanese cuisine** provided by vendors including: **Raku, Chabuya, Monta, Asahi Beer**, and many more.

As always, **ADMISSION IS FREE!** And there's plenty of **FREE PARKING** for guests. To learn more about the one and only Japanese Fall Festival in our valley, visit www.akimatsurinva.com or contact Gene Sugano at 702-334-5218.

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About Aki Matsuri

Aki Matsuri was founded in 2010 by Robert Higashinaka who wanted to boost awareness about the growing Japanese population in Las Vegas. "Aki Matsuri" are the Japanese words for "fall festival", and has been celebrated in the Las Vegas valley each October. The first Aki Matsuri took place at West Flamingo Park on Flamingo and Jones, then it moved to Chinatown for two years, then to a major casino property for three years, until it's ultimate destination at the Henderson Events Plaza. The event attracts more than 10,000 people annually and features traditional culture, music and food. The visiting groups from Japan, as well as the local talent, are not paid for their performances, nor are the visiting groups compensated for their travel expenses. JFAN appreciates the enthusiasm of everyone who volunteers to make this event a success year after year.

About the Japanese Festival Association of Nevada (JFAN)

JFAN is grass roots founded, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to bringing Japanese culture to Nevada, and providing opportunities for all members of the community to experience and learn about Japan. The popularity of the event attracted the attention of MGM Resorts Japan, the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles, and the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco. The board of JFAN were extremely excited about the major casino sponsorship and the support by the Japanese organizations outside the state of Nevada. Kathleen Blakely, Honorary Consul General of Japan in Nevada said, "We could not be more pleased that the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles will be a sponsor for this year's event." JFAN's

President, Jeff Winchester said, "The sponsorship by MGM Resorts Japan, Japan Foundation Los Angeles, and the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco cements Aki Matsuri's standing as the premier Japanese festival in Southern Nevada. We hope others will follow the lead of these organizations and help support this incredible event, keeping it free and open to the public."