

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Advancing Leaders Through Purpose-Driven Service

May 2021

WHEREAS the Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, declares **May 2021** as **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month** in Alameda County; and the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) has announced this year's theme as "**Advancing Leaders Through Purpose-Driven Service;**" and

WHEREAS this year's theme marks the start of FAPAC's new "Advancing Leaders" series and focuses on leadership and engagement to advance the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community; and

WHEREAS the AAPI community is the fastest growing racial group in the United States, and at 31.1 percent of Alameda County's population, the AAPI community is the largest racial group in the county; and

WHEREAS in response to the spikes in anti-AAPI hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic, this Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution in February 2021 condemning anti-AAPI hate and standing in solidarity with our AAPI communities; and

WHEREAS on April 22, 2021, with broad bi-partisan support, the United States Senate overwhelmingly approved an anti-Asian hate crime bill, which includes expediting the Department of Justice's review of hate crimes and launching a series of public education campaigns addressing bias against AAPI communities; and

WHEREAS AAPI youth have demonstrated great leadership in combating anti-AAPI bias, discrimination, and hate in our communities; and

WHEREAS this Board of Supervisors recognizes and extends appreciation to the diverse AAPI ethnic groups for their substantial and valuable cultural, economic, and civic contributions to the history of the United States and the State of California; retaining cultural pride, fostering mutual respect and understanding that all are critically important for our diverse Bay Area communities; and

WHEREAS the month of May was chosen because it commemorates the immigration of the first Japanese residents to the United States in 1843. In addition, May also marks the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, which was built with the labor of mostly Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS in the mid-1970s, a nationwide advocacy campaign was launched to obtain a Congressional Resolution to designate one week in May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. This concept originated from Jeanie F. Jew, a staff person on Capitol Hill at the time and a board member of the Organization of Chinese Americans; and

WHEREAS on October 23, 1993 community leaders from around the country witnessed a new chapter in the Asian Pacific American history as President George H. W. Bush signed legislation proclaiming the month of **May** every year as **National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**.

NOW THEREFORE this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California does hereby proclaim **May 2021** as **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month** in Alameda County and encourages everyone to commemorate this important occasion in recognition of the numerous contributions made by the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities locally, nationally, and globally.

FURTHERMORE, this Board of Supervisors supports and commends the diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in our county and recognizes the **Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay** for their dedication to serving the AAPI community during the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racism, and for their ongoing passion and efforts to ensure that the needs of our AAPI communities are in alignment with agencies locally and regionally to help enhance their quality of life.

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