

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Advancing Leaders Through Collaboration

May 2022

Recognizing

Oakland AAPI Unite Coalition

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors declares **May 2022** as **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month** in Alameda County; and according to the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC), this year’s theme is “**Advancing Leaders Through Collaboration;**” and

WHEREAS, this year’s theme is part of FAPAC’s new “Advancing Leaders” theme series from 2021 through 2024 that highlights the leadership and engagement to advance the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community; and

WHEREAS, according to the US Census Bureau, in 2020, there are over 6 million Asian Pacific Americans (APA) in California and Asians constituted 31 percent of the population in Alameda County. In addition, 161% is the projected percentage increase between 2008 and 2050 in the population of people who identify themselves as Asian; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups include: Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Guamanian, Hawaiian, Hmong, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Mien, Samoan, South Asian, Tongan, Vietnamese, and those of mixed Asian descent. Despite the ongoing discrimination and barriers faced, all of these groups have made 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, who was a staff person on Capitol Hill and a board member of the Organization of Chinese Americans; and

WHEREAS, after receiving similar resolutions from Congressman Frank Horton of New York, Congressman Norman Y. Mineta of California, and Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii - On March 28, 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration.

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**.

THEREFORE, this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California does hereby proclaim **May 2022** as **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month** in Alameda County and encourages everyone to commemorate this important occasion in recognition of 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 **Oakland AAPI Unite** coalition for their collaborative efforts to help Oakland’s AAPI community achieve educational and health equity, meet their basic needs, attain economic stability, and advance immigrant and refugee rights.

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