



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER (AAPI) HERITAGE MONTH

- WHEREAS:** The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community has made great contributions to our city and country, and generations of our AAPI residents have enriched all aspects of our city and nation's history; *and*
- WHEREAS:** According to the latest population estimates from the Census Bureau in 2022, 9.8% of Boston's population and 7.2 % of the Massachusetts population identify as Asian American, and Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial or ethnic group in the country; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Boston has the largest number of AAPI residents in the state, the third largest Chinatown in the United States, a vibrant Vietnamese community in Dorchester, as well as many other AAPI communities throughout the city; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The AAPI community is incredibly diverse, as it comprises more than 50 distinct ethnicities, and over 100 language dialects. The stories of the AAPI community are part of the story of the United States, and their experiences reflect the ups and downs in our nation's history; *and*
- WHEREAS:** AAPIs contributed to the building of this nation, with the examples of Chinese immigrants being essential in the building of the transcontinental railroad, and Japanese, Korean, and Filipino immigrants being an important workforce in areas such as Hawaii and California; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Despite their achievements and contributions, AAPIs have faced strong institutional discrimination and racism, with the Chinese Exclusion Act prohibiting immigration from China, and Japanese internment during World War II being two of the most prominent examples; *and*
- WHEREAS:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, we witnessed a significant rise in racist incidents and hate crimes against AAPI residents nationally, and increased reports of physical and verbal assaults against AAPI residents illustrate just how malicious anti-Asian hate can be, and how we need to continue to support our AAPI residents; *and*
- WHEREAS:** AAPIs are an integral part of our society, as they are our neighbors, frontline healthcare workers, teachers, business owners, policymakers, military members,

youth sports coaches, among many others, including Mayor Michelle Wu, the first Asian American Mayor of Boston. Many AAPIs are leaders in our community in Boston, helping to move our city forward; *and*

WHEREAS: There are also many AAPIs who have served and continue to serve our U.S. Armed Forces with honor and distinction. In 1911, Filipino American Army Private Jose Nisperos was the first AAPI to be awarded the Medal of Honor, and since then, the Medal of Honor has been awarded to AAPI service members for 31 times in ensuing wars and conflicts; *and*

WHEREAS: Here in Boston's Chinatown, we have the American Legion Boston Chinatown Post 328, which will be marking over 75 years of service to the Chinatown and veteran community this year. The Post is made up of veterans who served as far back as World War II. Last October, Veterans Commissioner Santiago and I took part in Private Wing O. Hom's Hero Square dedication in Chinatown. Private Hom was among 20,000 Chinese Americans who served during World War II, who was killed in action when he was 20 years old, and whose body was recently identified and recovered in Italy. His square now sits in front of his home on Beach Street where he lived more than 80 years ago; *and*

WHEREAS: It is important that we recognize the significant contributions of our AAPI community; we must celebrate and support our AAPI and immigrant communities as their experience and cultural heritage enrich our city and nation; *and*

WHEREAS: May is officially designated as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in the United States Code under section 102 of title 36, and it requests that there is an annual proclamation from the President calling on the people in the U.S. to celebrate the AAPI community during May; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council honors and recognizes the contributions and achievements of our AAPI residents during Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May, and continues to support our AAPI community in standing up against discrimination and racism.

Filed on: May 8, 2024