



OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN AND ERIN MURPHY

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS DURING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN MAY

- 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 2021 population estimates from the Census Bureau, 9.8% of Boston's population and 7.2 % of the Massachusetts population identify as Asian American, and the Asian American population is 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 comprised of over 45 distinct ethnicities, and over 100 language dialects; *and*
- WHEREAS:** 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: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant increase of racist incidents and hate crimes against AAPI residents, as 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: 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*

WHEREAS: To celebrate AAPI Heritage Month, there are numerous events around the city and the state, including opera performances from Asian artists at the Boston Public Library and the Pao Arts Center, the Unity Dinner at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute, and the Asian Street Food and Music Festival at Harvard Square, among others; *and*

WHEREAS: It is important that we recognize the contributions of our AAPI community, especially during this time when our AAPI residents are maliciously targeted because of COVID-19. We must celebrate and support our AAPI and immigrant communities as their experience and cultural heritage enrich our city and nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

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

Filed on: May 10th, 2023