



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

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

- WHEREAS:** The idea of celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month first started in 1977 when five joint resolutions were introduced in Congress which proposed that a week in May be designated to commemorate the accomplishments of Asian/Pacific Americans. This culminated in President Jimmy Carter's issuance of the first Presidential Proclamation for "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week" in 1979; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In 1990, a Presidential Proclamation signed by President George H.W. Bush further expanded Asian/Pacific American Heritage week to Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in May, and this was permanently designated in 1992 when Congress passed Pub. L. No. 102-450, which made May each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month"; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community have been an integral part of American life for over 150 years. From the first Japanese immigrants arriving in May 1843 and Chinese laborers playing an essential role in the building of the transcontinental railroad, to later waves of immigration of Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian and other Asian immigrants, AAPIs contributed to the building of this nation; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The AAPI community is incredibly diverse, comprising 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:** Despite their hard work, achievements and contributions, the AAPI community has 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. These attacks illustrate just how malicious anti-Asian hate can be, and how we need to continue to support our AAPI neighbors; *and*

WHEREAS: According to the Census Bureau, 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 an integral part of our city and country - they are our neighbors, healthcare workers, teachers, school administrators, business owners, policymakers, veterans and active U.S. service members, youth sports coaches, among many others. We have many AAPIs leaders in Boston and Massachusetts, including Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston Planning Department Chief Kairos Shen, and MBTA General Manager Phil Eng, helping to move our City and State forward; *and*

WHEREAS: It is important that we recognize the significant contributions of our AAPI community who have enriched all aspects of our nation's history. We must continue to celebrate and stand in support of them in the face of racism, adversity and hate; *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 recommits to standing up against anti-AAPI discrimination and racism.

Filed on: April 30, 2025