

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, ERIN MURPHY, LOUIJEUNE, ARROYO, BAKER, COLETTA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLAHERTY, LARA, MEJIA AND BREADON



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR AAPI COMMUNITY

- WHEREAS:** January 22, 2023 marks the start of the Lunar New Year. In the Chinese zodiac, 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit, and in the Vietnamese zodiac, the cat takes the place of the rabbit. Every year, Lunar New Year begins on the second new moon after winter solstice, and is usually celebrated for a week starting from New Year's Eve to the sixth day of the New Year; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In Boston, we have a large number of AAPI residents who celebrate Lunar New Year. We have one of the largest Chinatowns in the United States, a vibrant Vietnamese community in Dorchester, and many smaller pockets of AAPI communities throughout the city; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The AAPI community is incredibly diverse, comprising over 45 distinct ethnicities, and more than 100 language dialects. The stories of the AAPI immigrant community are part of the story of the United States, and their experiences reflect the success and struggles in our nation's history; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Despite their contributions and sacrifices, AAPIs have faced strong institutional discrimination and racism throughout history, with the most prominent examples being the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, which was repealed in 1943, and Japanese Internment during World War II. Since COVID-19, there has been a significant increase of racist incidents and hate crimes committed against AAPI residents; *and*
- WHEREAS:** AAPIs are an integral part of our society; they are our neighbors, frontline healthcare workers, school teachers, small business owners, policymakers, military members, youth sports coaches, among many others; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In this Year of the Rabbit/Cat, we must reaffirm our commitment to our AAPI neighbors, recognize their contributions, celebrate and support them. Their experience and cultural heritage enrich our city and nation for the better; *and*

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council celebrates the contributions and achievements of our AAPI residents during Lunar New Year of the Rabbit/Cat, and recommits to speaking up and condemning discrimination and racism against our AAPI neighbors.

**Filed on:** January 25th, 2023