

City of Albany

Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH - May 2022

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month is observed during the month of May to recognize the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the term “Asian and Pacific Islander” includes all people of Asian, Asian American or Pacific Islander ancestry who trace their origins to the countries, states, jurisdictions and/or the diasporic communities of these geographic regions and is one of the fastest growing racial/ethnic minority groups in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the first Asian American and Pacific Islanders to arrive to the US were Filipinos who landed in Morro Bay, California in 1587; and

WHEREAS, the first Chinatown was established in 1848 in San Francisco, California; and

WHEREAS, 20,000 Chinese immigrants worked on the transcontinental railroad between 1863-1869 and Punjabis worked on the Western Pacific Railways in Northern California between 1903-1908; and

WHEREAS, the first Gurdwara (Sikh place of worship) in the United States was built in Stockton, California in 1912; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, May was officially designated as “Asian Pacific American Heritage Month”; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a long history of Anti-Asian discrimination and brutality including the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, Executive Order 9066 authorizing the internment of US citizens of Japanese descent, the 2017 Muslim Ban and recent violence towards Asian American and Pacific Islanders especially during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders were critical during the COVID-19 pandemic when this community, in particular recent immigrants, stood unwavering on the frontline as essential workers in healthcare; the food industry, grocery stores, and restaurants; in education as childcare workers and teachers; and in the pharmaceutical and biomedical industry; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany is proud to be the home of many Asian American and Pacific Islanders who contribute greatly to the prosperity and enrichment of our City; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islanders have established a wide range of services to shape the growth of the City of Albany through education, personal services, real estate, arts and culture, fitness & movement, retail, restaurants, and government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Albany City Council does hereby recognize May 2022 as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month and calls upon our community members to honor Asian Americans Pacific Islanders while learning more about their history.

Date: May 2, 2022

PRESTON JORDAN, MAYOR

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