

FIRST READING: May 04, 2022
SECOND READING/ADOPTION: June 07, 2022

CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND
Resolution No. 02-2022

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Jarrett Stoltzfus

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND
PROCLAIMING MAY AS ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC
ISLANDER (AAPI) HERITAGE MONTH

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of Mount Rainier proclaim May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in Mount Rainier, Maryland as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States.

WHEREAS, the people of the United States join together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States;

WHEREAS, the history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

WHEREAS, the Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects;

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of the Census, the Asian-American population grew faster than any other racial or ethnic group over the last decade, surging nearly 72 percent between 2000 and 2015;

WHEREAS, there are approximately 23,500,000 residents of the United States who identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, making up nearly 7 percent of the total population of the United States;

WHEREAS, there are approximately 300,000 residents of Maryland that identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, making up over 6 percent of the total population of Maryland

WHEREAS, there are approximately 39,000 residents of Prince George's County that identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, making up over 4 percent of the total population of Prince George's County

WHEREAS, there are approximately 200 residents of Mount Rainier, Maryland that identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, making up approximately 2 percent of the total population of Mount Rainier, Maryland

WHEREAS, the month of May was selected for Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific American Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants;

WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders have made substantial contributions in Mount Rainier, Prince George's County and in Maryland in both civic and elected life,

WHEREAS, Maryland and Prince George's County have led in Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history with the election of Kinjiro Matsudaira as the Mayor of Edmonston, Maryland in 1927, the first Asian American and Pacific Islander mayor not only in Prince George's County and Maryland but in the mainland United States,

WHEREAS, following that historic step, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders in Prince George's County, in Maryland, and in the United States have and continue to serve in both civic life and as elected officials,

WHEREAS, the month of May is celebrated nationwide as Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month to recognize the contributions and influence of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders here in the United States, and

WHEREAS, all residents deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, compassion and justice regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, income or economic status, language, political affiliation, military status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental or sensory ability; and

WHEREAS, since January 2020, the increased use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric related to the 2019 novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") has perpetuated an anti-Asian stigma and has resulted in a dramatic increase in reports of hate crimes and incidents against individuals of Asian descent;

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Rainier stands in unity with the Asian community and denounces any anti-Asian Hate attacks.

WHEREAS, there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the Government of the United States and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Rainier, its elected officials, and its residents are committed to inclusion and advancing equity and justice for the Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Community and people of all races, national origins, and ethnicities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of Mount Rainier recognizes and acknowledges the contributions, achievements, and influence of the AAPI community; and

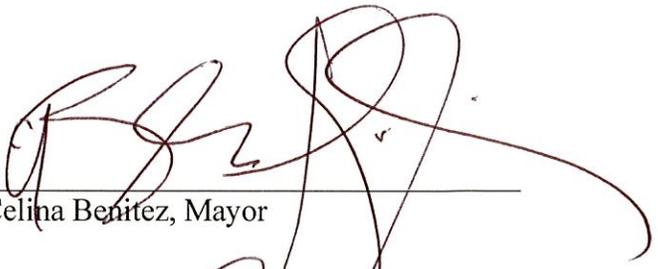
RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of Mount Rainier proclaims May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

This Resolution is adopted by the Mayor and Council of the City of Mount Rainier this 07 day of June, 2022.

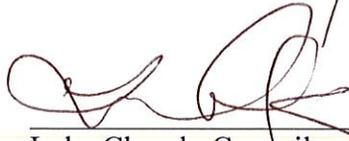
Attest:



Melissa Sam, City Clerk



Celina Benitez, Mayor



Luke Chesek, Councilmember Ward 1



James Tarlau, Councilmember Ward 1



Jarrett Stoltzfus, Councilmember Ward 2



Valerie Woodall, Councilmember Ward 2