



City of Mount Rainier

Proclamation in Recognition and Celebration of May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

WHEREAS, The City of Mount Rainier is proud to Honor the history and contributions of the Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander members in our community, throughout Maryland and our nation; and

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 American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander here in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was selected for Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander 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; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) has named this year's theme for AAPI Heritage Month as "Advancing Leaders Through Collaboration." This theme is a continuation of the "Advancing Leaders" theme series which began in 2021 and will continue until 2024 in an effort to highlight FAPAC's efforts in advancing leaders in the federal government and local governments across the country; and

WHEREAS, During Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we elevate the achievements and contributions made to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

WHEREAS, the Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Community have played a key role in the advancement of this City and world in the multiple field of studies including and not limited to the Arts, Culture, Science, Math, Politics, History, Business, Music, Sports, Medicine, Economic Development, Education, Agriculture, Literature, Dance, High Technology and Human and Civil Rights, including LGBTQAI+ rights. There is no field that the Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders community have not positively impacted and have advanced; and

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

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; and

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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 200 residents in the City 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; and

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

WHEREAS, there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander, community 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, 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; and

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

WHEREAS, The City of Mount Rainier commits to doing everything in our power to demand that we all seek a greater understanding and implement changes to ensure that racism and the unjust treatment of any person is not tolerated in any way or form within the City of Mount Rainier; 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, the City of Mount Rainier, its elected officials, and its residents are committed to inclusion and advancing equity and justice for Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Community and people of all races, national origins, and ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander History is United States History and should be taught to students since elementary along with Ethics Studies; and

WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, is a time for all Citizens of Mount Rainier to remember the contributions and legacy of those who helped build our nation, fought against prejudice to secure lives of dignity and opportunity for all of our citizens, advanced the cause of civil rights for all Americans, and strengthened our families and communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Celina R. Benitez, Mayor of the City of Mount Rainier do hereby proclaim May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the City of Mount Rainier and every year from today on The City of Mount Rainier celebrates May as Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders Heritage Month; and urge all our citizens to celebrate the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community heritage, history and culture and continue our efforts year around to create a world that is more just, peaceful, equitable and prosperous for all and stand up for injustice, voting rights, against oppression and protection of Human and Civil Rights.



Honorable Mayor Celina R. Benitez
City of Mount Rainier, MD

May 1, 2022