

City of Albany

Proclamation



IN RECOGNITION OF ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH May 2023

WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is observed during the month of May to recognize and celebrate the innumerable contributions, diversity of cultures, languages, religions, and rich heritage of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AA and NHPI); and

WHEREAS, an estimated 24 million people identify as Asian and 1.6 million identify as Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander in the United States; and

WHEREAS, AA & NHPI communities include people with ancestry from the continent of Asia and the Pacific Islands from more than 50 ethnicities, with over 100 languages and dialects and is one of the fastest growing racial/ethnic minority groups in the United States; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the strength, contributions, and legacies of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders who have helped build this country in each successive generation; and

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

WHEREAS, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843; 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, the origin of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month dates back to the 95th Congress (1977-1978) when five joint resolutions were introduced proposing that a week in May be designated to commemorate the accomplishments of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, May was officially designated as “Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month” and in 2021 a presidential proclamation expanded this to include Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate AA & NHPI communities, we must also redouble our commitment to combating anti-Asian hate crimes as the United States has a long history of Anti-Asian racism including the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, the Executive Order 9066 of 1942 authorizing the internment of US citizens of Japanese descent, the 2017 Muslim Travel Ban and increased violence towards AA & NHPI communities during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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

WHEREAS, the City of Albany would like to acknowledge and recognize the Albany Asian Pacific Islander Parent Engagement Group (API-PEG) for their ongoing work to support, promote and celebrate the interests of Asian Pacific Islander students and families in Albany.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Albany City Council does hereby recognize May 2023 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and calls upon our community members to honor Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders while learning more about their history.

Date: May 1, 2023

City of Albany Proclamation No. 2023-09


AARON TIEDEMANN, MAYOR