

Proclamation

Whereas, The month of May was chosen as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese citizen, Nakahama Manjiro, to the United States on May 7, 1843, but also the anniversary of the May 10, 1869 completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad, built with the back-breaking labor of nearly 20,000 Chinese immigrants; and

Whereas, Alameda's population is more than 30 percent Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and includes devoted community members who serve as artists, business owners, educators, health care professionals, lawyers and judges, clergy members, first responders and military personnel; and

Whereas, we celebrate the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that enrich our history, society and culture, we must also acknowledge a darker aspect of the AAPI experience in America - structural discrimination, prejudice and injustice that most recently manifested itself in racist attacks on Asian Americans related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, Asian American Pacific Islanders have distinguished themselves as leading researchers in science, medicine, and technology; innovative farmers and ranchers; distinguished lawyers, judges and government leaders; in the arts, literature, and sports; as war heroes who defended our country from fascism; and peacetime healthcare heroes currently on the front lines of the pandemic; and

Whereas, today more than 20 million Asian American Pacific Islanders live in the United States and through their actions, make America a more vibrant, prosperous, and secure nation.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, on behalf of the Alameda City Council, do hereby proclaim May 2020 as

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

in the City of Alameda, and encourage all Alamedans to learn more about Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage, and work to combat racism and xenophobia as we celebrate this month with cultural events and educational activities.


Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Mayor

