



RESOLUTION

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS - A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

By Chowdhury, Payne, Wonsley, Rainville, Vetaw, Warren, Osman,
Shaffer, Stevenson, Chavez, Chughtai, Whiting, and Palmisano

HONORING ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

- Whereas: Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month is a month-long celebration in May that celebrates the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities; and
- Whereas: AANHPI communities consist of approximately 50 distinct ethnic groups speaking over 100 languages, with connections among people in Minneapolis including but not limited to Bangladeshi, Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Pakistani, Thai, and Vietnamese ancestries; and
- Whereas: Over the past five decades, thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers from Asian countries and cultures have resettled in Minnesota, including Hmong refugees since the 1970s, Vietnamese refugees since the 1980s, and Karen refugees since the early 2000s as well as Lao, Cambodian, Burmese, and other Asian communities who have contributed to the state's cultural fabric; and
- Whereas: May reminds us to celebrate and honor our AANHPI community members, past and present, and the beautiful ways they contribute to and enrich our daily lives in Minneapolis; and
- Whereas: May commemorates two important early dates in AANHPI history; the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad, largely built by Chinese immigrants, on May 10, 1869; and
- Whereas: May provides a time to reflect on the challenging history of AANHPI communities across different ethnicities. During the past nearly two centuries, AANHPI community members have faced countless acts of discrimination and endured traumatic events, including but not limited to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Los Angeles Chinese massacre of 1871, the invasion of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893, the 1917 and 1924 Immigration Laws that effectively ended immigration from Asia until 1965, the British led partition of India, U.S military aid in the Bangladesh genocide of 1971, and the incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, upheld in *Korematsu v. the United States*, the murder of Vincent Chin in 1982, and the spike of anti-Asian hate and violence throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Whereas: Most recently, members of the AANHPI community were negatively impacted and targeted by federal agents during Operation Metro Surge, undermining their safety, well-being, and ability to feel secure in their lives; and
- Whereas: Throughout history, the AANHPI community have been often subjected to the perception of being perpetual foreigners, disregarding their deep roots and enduring contributions to American society; and
- Whereas: The pervasive myth of the AANHPI community being the model minority, especially individuals of East Asian and South Asian descent, which has inaccurately portrayed this community as being universally successful, masking the significant socioeconomic disparities and challenges faced by many within the diverse AANHPI community, minimizing the reality of racism and discrimination; and
- Whereas: The rise of anti-Asian sentiment and rhetoric has resulted in a surge of hate crimes and discrimination targeting the AANHPI community, perpetuating fear in these communities; and
- Whereas: Despite these challenges, the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities have persevered and made significant contributions to the American social, economic, and cultural fabric of the United States; and
- Whereas: AANHPI communities have contributed greatly to the arts, music, literature, business, science, technology, government, and social movements, enriching the cultural and civic life of Minneapolis and beyond; and
- Whereas: Organizations such as the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL), Future of Us, Serving Asian-Indian Family Wellness (SEWA-AIFW), and the SEAD Project nurture civic leadership, creative expression, and social justice for AANHPI communities across Minneapolis and Minnesota; and

- Whereas: AANHPI entrepreneurs have strengthened Minneapolis’s economy, opening businesses that serve diverse neighborhoods and contribute to the vibrancy of the city’s markets and cultural corridors; and
- Whereas: Artists, educators, and leaders from AANHPI communities have expanded the understanding of shared histories and built intergenerational bridges in Minneapolis and across Minnesota; and
- Whereas: Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders are among the fastest growing racial groups in the United States and account for about 7.5 percent of the City of Minneapolis population, when considering individuals who identify as Asian or Pacific Islander either alone or as part of their multiracial identity;

—NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED—

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby recognize the month of May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; and celebrate the rich cultural diversity and contributions of these communities.

Passed this the Seventh Day of May 2026

Elliott Payne, President of the Council

Approved:

Jacob Frey, Mayor

Attest:

Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk