



Village Manager's Office

SUBJECT: 2023 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation

MEETING DATE: April 25, 2023

FROM: Sara Phyfer, Assistant to the Village Manager
Erik Hallgren, Assistant Village Manager

BUDGET IMPACT: None

Recommended Motion

Proclamation designating the month of May 2023 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the Village of Wilmette.

Background

The Village's Human Relations Commission has endorsed Village proclamations recognizing the celebration of various cultural groups. At their April 18, 2023 meeting, the Human Relations Commission approved the attached Proclamation for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

The celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month started with 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 and Pacific Islanders. One of the resolutions, H.J.Res.1007, was passed by Congress, designating seven days in May beginning on May 4 as Asian/Pacific American Week. In 1990, the first Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month was designated by presidential proclamation and in 1992, Congress permanently designated May of each year as a month-long celebration that is now known as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 8, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is observed annually to celebrate the contributions that generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made to American history, society, and culture. Asian American and Pacific Islanders comprise over 12 percent of the population of Wilmette. The 2023 theme is "Advancing Leaders through Opportunity," continuing the "Advancing Leaders" theme that began in 2021, which highlights efforts in

advancing leaders in the Federal and District of Columbia governments, and governments generally.

In proclaiming Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Wilmette residents are encouraged to learn more about Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander heritages and to celebrate this month. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month information and resources can be found at asianpacificheritage.gov. Additionally, the HRC has organized an event for May 21 to celebrate and learn more about a variety of AAPI cultures. Wilmette residents can find more information by visiting www.wilmette.com

Staff will promote Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and the HRC event through the Village's social media channels, Village website, and weekly E-newsletter; these efforts are intended to recognize, celebrate, and educate on the contributions to our society that have been made by members of the AAPI community.

Documents Attached

1. 2023 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation



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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1990, the first Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was designated by presidential proclamation and in 1992, Congress permanently designated May of each year as a month-long celebration that is now known as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; and,

WHEREAS, May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States in 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869; and

WHEREAS, people of Asian Heritage now comprise over 12 percent of the Village's population, and have made valuable contributions to the growth of the United States and their local communities, and it is critically important that we recognize their accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, the theme for 2023 is "Advancing Leaders through Opportunity," which highlights efforts to advance leaders in government; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated annually with festivals, events, cultural programming, and educational activities; and

WHEREAS, additional Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month information and resources can be found at asianpacificheritage.gov and Wilmette.com;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Senta Plunkett, Village President of Wilmette, Illinois, proclaim May 2023 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and call upon all people of Wilmette, Illinois to learn more about those of Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage and to celebrate this month.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2023.

Senta Plunkett
Village President