

1 [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month - May]

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3 **Resolution recognizing and celebrating every May as Asian Pacific American Heritage**  
4 **Month in the City and County of San Francisco, and honoring the countless**  
5 **contributions of the Asian Pacific American community.**

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7 WHEREAS, The month of May carries significance to Asian Pacific Americans because  
8 of two historic events that occurred on May 7, 1843, the date in which the first Japanese  
9 immigrants arrived to the United States; and May 10, 1869, Transcontinental Chinese  
10 Railroad Workers Day, in recognition of the contributions of Chinese immigrants that worked  
11 to complete the first transcontinental railroad in the United States despite discriminatory,  
12 unsafe conditions; and

13 WHEREAS, The origin of the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month came from a  
14 former Capitol Hill staffer, Jeanie Jew, who illuminated the need for the recognition of this  
15 important community in highlighting her own story as a great granddaughter of a Chinese  
16 Transcontinental worker and Ruby Moy, the chief of staff of Representative Horton who  
17 worked to make the commemoration possible; and

18 WHEREAS, Congressional representatives dating back to 1977, most notably  
19 Congressmembers Norman Mineta and Frank Horton, introduced resolutions to designate  
20 official recognition for Asian Pacific Heritage, which eventually recognized the first week of  
21 May as Asian/Pacific American Week; and

22 WHEREAS, On March 28, 1979, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential  
23 proclamation for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week to recognize the significant  
24 contributions of the Asian Pacific community; and

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1           WHEREAS, In 1991, United States President George H.W. Bush signed into law a  
2 Joint Resolution adopted by the Congress of the United States, declaring that the month of  
3 May be celebrated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the United States; and in  
4 1992, it was declared that the celebration would take place in May in perpetuity; and

5           WHEREAS, San Francisco has a significant Asian Pacific population and has  
6 celebrated Asian Pacific Heritage Month annually;

7           WHEREAS, In 2005, Mayor Gavin Newsom embraced the idea of an annual official  
8 celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in San Francisco with festivities  
9 coordinated and organized by a diverse group of community representatives serving on the  
10 Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Celebration Committee; and

11           WHEREAS, Since 2005, San Francisco’s annual celebration event of Asian Pacific  
12 American Heritage Month historically took place on the first Monday of May; and

13           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors also honored notable Asian  
14 Pacific residents and organizations in each of the eleven Supervisorial Districts for community  
15 service, contributions, and achievements during a Special Commendation Ceremony for  
16 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at an official Board Meeting in May; and

17           WHEREAS, Due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19 and the Shelter-in-Place  
18 order in San Francisco and throughout California, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month  
19 celebrations are postponed or are being done virtually; and

20           WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors suspended Special Commendations during the  
21 Shelter-in-Place;

22           WHEREAS, The celebration of the Asian Pacific American community is important now  
23 more than ever given the rise of anti-Asian sentiment nationwide due to xenophobia and  
24 racism related to the global COVID-19 health pandemic; and

1           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes and celebrates the month of  
2 May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the City and County of San Francisco in  
3 perpetuity; and

4           FURTHER RESOLVED; That the Board of Supervisors will participate and support  
5 events and campaigns to highlight the achievements and contributions of the Asian Pacific  
6 community; and, be it

7           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will continue to support the  
8 Asian Pacific community during this time of crisis to ensure that basic services and protection  
9 are provided during this health emergency; and, be it

10          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the work of the  
11 Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration Committee and the APA Heritage Foundation for  
12 making these events possible; and, be it

13          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the Center for  
14 Asian American Media (CAAM), Asian Art Museum, and the San Francisco Public Library for  
15 their partnership in producing and promoting the activities to celebrate Asian Pacific American  
16 Month.

17          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors extends their highest  
18 commendation to the 2020 honorees of the APA Heritage Celebration Committee for their  
19 remarkable impact serving the Asian Pacific community in San Francisco: the Center for  
20 Asian American Media (CAAM) on the occasion of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Community Youth  
21 Center of San Francisco (CYC) on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Japanese  
22 Community Youth Center (JCYC) on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the San  
23 Francisco - Ho Chi Minh Sister City Committee on the occasion of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.