

1 [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month - May]

2

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.**

6

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 introduced resolutions  
19 to designate official recognition for Asian Pacific Heritage, which eventually recognized the  
20 first week of May as Asian/Pacific American Week; and

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

24 WHEREAS, In 1991, United States President George H.W. Bush signed into law a  
25 Joint Resolution adopted by the Congress of the United States, declaring that the month of

1 May be celebrated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the United States in  
2 perpetuity; and

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

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

9 WHEREAS, Since 2005, San Francisco's annual celebration event of Asian American  
10 Heritage Month historically took place on the first Monday of May; and

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

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

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

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

23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes and celebrates the month of  
24 every May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month; and

25

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

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

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the work of the  
8 Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration Committee and the Asian Pacific American  
9 Heritage Foundation for making these events possible; and, be it

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