

1 [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month - May 2024]

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3 **Resolution recognizing and celebrating the month of May 2024 as Asian Pacific**
4 **Heritage Month in the City and County of San Francisco and honoring the significant**
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 of the first recorded arrival of
9 immigrants from Japan to the United States, and May 10, 1869, the completion of the
10 Transcontinental Railroad, a monumental project made possible by primarily Chinese laborers
11 despite discriminatory, unsafe conditions and without acknowledgement and is now
12 recognized as Transcontinental Chinese Railroad Workers Day; 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 Congress Members 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; and

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 11 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, The celebration of the Asian Pacific American community is important now
18 more than ever given the rise of anti-Asian sentiment nationwide due to continued xenophobia
19 and racism related to the global COVID-19 health pandemic; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
21 recognizes and celebrates the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the
22 City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
24 Francisco will participate and support events and campaigns that highlight the achievements

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1 and contributions of the Asian Pacific community to elevate cross-cultural understanding and
2 promote cross-racial solidarity; and, be it

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

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the Asian Pacific
8 American Heritage Celebration Committee and the APA Heritage Foundation on the occasion
9 of its 20th Anniversary for two decades of leadership and service in creating an inclusive
10 forum for community collaborations, establishing a dynamic celebration guide to uplift
11 community celebrations in neighborhoods across the City; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the Center for
13 Asian American Media (CAAM), Asian Art Museum, the San Francisco Public Library, and
14 over 175 Publicity Partners including API Council, Chinese Cultural Center, Chinatown
15 Community Development Center, Filipina Women’s Network, Northern California Cherry
16 Blossom Festival, Korean Center Inc., Samoan Community Development Center, and many
17 more for their partnership in producing and promoting the activities to celebrate Asian Pacific
18 American Month; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
20 Francisco extends their highest commendation to the 2024 honorees of the APA Heritage
21 Celebration Committee for their remarkable impact serving the Asian Pacific community in
22 San Francisco, including:

- 23 • Wah Mei School on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary
- 24 • Kinmon Gakuen (Golden Gate Institute) on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary
- 25 • Special Recognition of Rose Chung, Community Inspiration

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- Special Recognition of Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr., Community Legend