[Asian Pacific American Heritage Month - May 2024]

Resolution recognizing and celebrating the month of May 2024 as Asian Pacific Heritage Month in the City and County of San Francisco and honoring the significant contributions of the Asian Pacific American community.

WHEREAS, The month of May carries significance to Asian Pacific Americans because of two historic events that occurred on May 7, 1843, the date of the first recorded arrival of immigrants from Japan to the United States, and May 10, 1869, the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, a monumental project made possible by primarily Chinese laborers despite discriminatory, unsafe conditions and without acknowledgement and is now recognized as Transcontinental Chinese Railroad Workers Day; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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