



Legislation Details (With Text)

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Proclamation of May 2023 as Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month
Proclamation
May as Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month

WHEREAS, the month of May has been selected as Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month to acknowledge important historical events. On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and on May 10, 1869, the first transcontinental railroad was completed with substantial contribution from Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, as of 2022, APIAs are the fastest growing population in the state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2020, the APIA population increased in 70% of Michigan counties with Washtenaw County having one of the highest concentrations of growth amidst one of the already largest numbers of APIA residents in the state; andP

WHEREAS, the 2020 Census data reveals that APIA residents are the second largest racial group in Ann Arbor; and

WHEREAS, the APIA community expanded upon solidarity civil rights work with allies who share histories with Black, Indigenous, and People of color and in the aftermath of the 1988 murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit, becoming the first federal hate crime litigated involving an APIA victim; and

WHEREAS, anti-APIA sentiment has increased exponentially in recent years and Ann Arbor City Council condemned hate crimes, hateful rhetoric, and hateful acts against Asians and Asian Americans in April 2022; and

WHEREAS, despite ongoing challenges, APIA community leaders in Ann Arbor have committed to community well-being, health, and justice for all through their personal and professional work. Dr.

Ravi Vadlamudi, a Packard Health physician dedicated to the housing first model of care so that Avalon Housing residents receive compassionate medical care in their homes; Nancy Wang, the Executive Director of Voters Not Politicians, has lead citizen-directed redistricting and citizen-driven democracy reforms; Nhu Do, Principal of Washtenaw International Middle School and High School, has supported students to become empathetic ambassadors in a more inclusive world; and Rebeka Islam, the Executive Director of APIAVote-Michigan, who has led statewide efforts to increase civic engagement and voter turnout of Michigan's APIA communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christopher Taylor, Mayor of Ann Arbor, Michigan, announce and celebrate the contributions Asian Pacific Islander Americans have made to society, and do hereby declare May 2023 to be Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month in the City of Ann Arbor. We encourage all community members to join us in this special observance.

I hereby set my hand and seal
This 15th day of May 2023

Christopher Taylor
Mayor of the City of Ann Arbor