



Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month May 2020

Whereas: The City of Roseville is committed to recognizing and honoring the contributions of all members of our communities; and

Whereas: In 1977, Rep Frank Horton of New York introduced House Joint Resolution 540 to proclaim the first ten days in May as Pacific/Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. This first legislation did not pass; and

Whereas: In 1992, Congress passed Public Law 102-450 which annually designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month; and

Whereas: The Month of May was selected to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843 and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers were Chinese immigrants; and

Whereas: Japanese American troops fought for freedom from tyranny abroad in World War II while their families here at home were interned simply on the basis of their origin; and

Whereas: In 1965, the Immigration and Nationality Act opened new doors of opportunity to more Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants; and

Whereas: The end of the Vietnam War brought new Vietnamese, Cambodian, Hmong and Laotian communities to the United States of America; and

Whereas: The city of Roseville is also home to many recent immigrants from Nepal, Burma, and Thailand who bring their rich cultural heritage and traditions to the community; and

Whereas: There are over 20 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States with over 260,000 of them calling Minnesota home; and

Whereas: A growing number of Roseville residents are of Asian and Pacific Island descent. They contribute to the vibrant community of Roseville as business owners, teachers, scientists, artists and through their rich cultures; and

Whereas: Despite all the progress, many Asian and Pacific Islanders continue to face persistent inequality and bigotry including barriers to equal access to education, employment, and healthcare. South Asian Americans, especially those who are Muslim, Hindu or Sikh—too

often face senseless violence and harassment only due to the color of their skin or the tenets of their faith; and

Whereas: The City of Roseville invites all members of the Roseville Community to renew their commitment to ensuring racial equality, understanding and justice and to participate in activities designed to advance the cause of freedom and equality for all.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the City Council hereby declares May, 2020 to be Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the City of Roseville, County of Ramsey, State of Minnesota, U.S.A.

In Witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Roseville be affixed this 18th day of May, 2020.



Mayor Daniel J. Roe

