

RESOLUTION NO. RS2019-1691

A Resolution proclaiming May 2019 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

WHEREAS, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific is a broad term that encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia), and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island); and

WHEREAS, the United States first recognized Asian Pacific American Heritage Week in May of 1979, and in 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed a bill extending the week-long celebration to a month-long celebration; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Congress passed a law which annually designated May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was chosen 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, where Chinese immigrants were the majority of the workers who laid the tracks; and

WHEREAS, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has a variety of material documenting the Asian and Pacific Islanders experience and highlights these resources online and through traditional and social media; and

WHEREAS, May of 2019 will be the fortieth anniversary of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, according to the Pew Research Center, the U.S. Asian population grew 72% between 2000 and 2015 (from 11.9 million to 20.4 million), the fastest growth rate of any major racial or ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, the total Asian Pacific American population in Davidson County is 30,232, or 4.4% of the county's population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017 American Community Survey; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander peoples have enjoyed enormous accomplishment in the United States and provide invaluable services and leadership throughout Nashville and Davidson County. Today, their continued success and leadership provides effective role models for youth and all citizens and residents of Nashville and Davidson County and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is therefore fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County should enthusiastically join in the national celebration of Asian Pacific Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as recognizing the month of May 2019 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in Nashville and Davidson County to honor the enormous accomplishments and contributions of members of the Asian and Pacific Islander community, and to encourage all citizens and residents to celebrate and support the people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent whose contributions make Nashville a better place to live.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

Mina Johnson

Member of Council