[Asian Pacific American Heritage Month - May 2021]

Resolution recognizing and celebrating May 2021 as Asian Pacific American 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 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 Congressmembers 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

Supervisors Mar; Chan, Peskin, Melgar, Haney, Safai, Walton, Ronen, Stefani, Preston, Mandelman

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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;

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 eleven 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, Due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19 and the Shelter-in-Place order in San Francisco and throughout California, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebrations are postponed or are being done virtually; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors suspended Special Commendations during the Shelter-in-Place;

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 xenophobia and racism related to the global COVID-19 health pandemic; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes and celebrates the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the City and County of San Francisco; and

FURTHER RESOLVED; That the Board of Supervisors 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 work of the Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration Committee and the APA Heritage Foundation for making these events possible; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), Asian Art Museum, and the San Francisco Public Library 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 extends their highest commendation to the 2021 honorees of the APA Heritage Celebration Committee for their remarkable impact serving the Asian Pacific community in San Francisco, including:

- SF - Seoul Sister City Committee on the occasion of their 60th anniversary
- SF - Manila Sister City Committee on the occasion of their 45th anniversary
- The National Japanese American Historical Society on the occasion of their 40th anniversary
with special recognitions to the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California (70 years) and World Journal (45 Years).
Resolution recognizing and celebrating May 2021 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the City and County of San Francisco and honoring the significant contributions of the Asian Pacific American community.

May 04, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 210460

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/4/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

_______________________________  __________________________
Angela Calvillo            Date
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

_______________________________  __________________________
Angela Calvillo            Date
Clerk of the Board