

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, each May, the United States celebrates Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, a time to honor and uplift the generations of AANHPI individuals whose perseverance, contributions, and cultural traditions have enriched the fabric of our nation and reflect the ongoing pursuit of equity and justice; and

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific American Heritage Week was established by Congress in 1978 to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to honor the critical contributions of Chinese laborers to the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was officially designated as a full month of celebration to recognize the historical and cultural contributions of AANHPI communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 AANHPI Heritage Month theme, “Power in Unity: Strengthening Communities Together,” recognizes the collective strength, solidarity, and resilience of AANHPI communities and affirms the importance of working across communities to advance equity, belonging, and shared prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Washington State is home to a vibrant and diverse AANHPI population representing many cultures, languages, and histories, and AANHPI residents have played a vital role in shaping the state’s civic, economic, and cultural life while continuing to advocate for representation, equity, and access to democracy; and

WHEREAS, Olympia’s history has long been shaped by AANHPI communities, including early Chinese immigrants who established one of the City’s historic Chinatowns in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, creating a vibrant center of commerce, community life, and mutual support despite facing systemic exclusion and displacement; and

WHEREAS, today, AANHPI residents in Olympia continue to shape the City through leadership in public service, education, small business, healthcare, arts and culture, and community advocacy; residents strengthen the social, cultural, and economic vitality of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia recognizes that AANHPI communities continue to experience racism, xenophobia, and systemic inequities, and affirms its commitment to advancing racial equity, dismantling structural barriers, and ensuring that all residents feel safe, valued, and able to thrive; and

WHEREAS, AANHPI Heritage Month provides an opportunity to acknowledge both the historical injustices experienced by these communities and the ongoing work to build a more just, inclusive, and equitable Olympia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia is proud to sponsor the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Festival on May 23, 2026, which

will be hosted and coordinated by the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of South Puget Sound, in celebration of community, heritage, and unity through culture and storytelling; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia encourages all residents to take action by learning from and engaging with the histories, cultures, and contributions of AANHPI communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim May 2026 as

ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

in the City of Olympia, and reaffirms its commitment to equity, inclusion, and belonging and standing in solidarity with AANHPI communities. The City encourages all residents to celebrate the enduring contributions, rich cultural heritage, and enduring spirit of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in our community, and to actively participate in building a more just and inclusive future for all.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 5th DAY OF MAY, 2026.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

***Dontae Payne
Mayor***