

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in May, the United States recognizes and reflects on the sacrifices, contributions, and achievements made by generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) in the storied history of our nation and acknowledges the ongoing struggle to keep America's founding promise of a more perfect and more equal union; and

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific American Heritage Week was signed into federal law in 1978 to commemorate the date that the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843 and to recognize the contribution of Chinese workers to the transcontinental railroad, which was completed on May 10, 1869; and

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific American Heritage Week expanded into a full month in 1992 and is celebrated annually to recognize the historical and cultural contributions of these communities to American history, society and culture; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2000, the Washington State Legislature declared the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in recognition of this population with representation from 48 Asian and Pacific Island nations in our state; and

WHEREAS, these communities are an integral part of the beautiful diversity, history, and culture of Olympia, and their many achievements in areas such as arts, government, science, hospitality, business, and technology embody the American experience; and

WHEREAS, while we celebrate the achievements and contributions of Asian and Pacific Islanders that enrich our history, society and culture, we must also acknowledge the structural discrimination and injustice that these communities have faced for generations through the present day; and

WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month provides the opportunity to elevate these communities and their roles in American history, and is a time to celebrate the advancement of civil rights and equal opportunity for all people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia is honored to partner with the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of South Puget Sound, and South Puget Sound Community College to host an Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders Heritage Festival on May 11, 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim May 2024 as

**ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

in the City of Olympia and re-affirms the City's commitment to supporting and standing with Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and

encourage all Olympians to observe, recognize, and celebrate the culture, heritage, and contributions of these communities to our country, our state and our city.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 7th DAY OF MAY, 2024.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

Dontae Payne
Mayor