

## **P R O C L A M A T I O N**

***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, in 2000, the Washington State Legislature officially proclaimed the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in recognition of the state's vibrant and diverse population, which includes representation from 48 Asian and Pacific Island nations; and***

***WHEREAS, Asian Americans from Washington State have made lasting contributions across a wide range of fields, including Gary Locke, the first Chinese American Governor of the State of Washington and the first and only Asian American Governor in the continental United States; Lori Matsukawa, an Emmy Award-winning journalist whose distinguished career in broadcast journalism brought visibility to underrepresented communities; and Toy Kay, who recently passed away, beloved community leader and founder of the Olympia Area Chinese Association, whose decades of advocacy, cultural preservation, and compassionate service have touched generations of families in Olympia—all of whom exemplify the legacy of leadership, resilience, and service in AANHPI communities; and***

***WHEREAS, in Olympia, AANHPI communities are an essential part of the city's identity and strength, contributing to its growth and vibrancy in fields such as the arts, public service, education, science, business, hospitality, and technology; and***

***WHEREAS, even as we celebrate the accomplishments of AANHPI communities, we must also acknowledge and confront the legacy and continued impact of systemic discrimination, exclusion, and violence, and recommit ourselves to equity, inclusion, and justice for all; and***

***WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month provides a meaningful opportunity to elevate the voices and stories of these communities, and to celebrate their critical roles in shaping American history and advancing civil rights; and***

***WHEREAS, the City of Olympia is proud to sponsor the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Festival on May 24, 2025, which will be hosted and coordinated by the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of South Puget Sound and the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, in celebration of community, heritage, and unity through culture and storytelling; and***

***NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim May 2025 as***

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

***in the City of Olympia, and reaffirms its commitment to standing in solidarity with AANHPI communities. The City encourages all residents to recognize and celebrate the enduring contributions, rich cultural heritage, and resilient spirit of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in our city, our state, and our nation.***

***SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2025.***

***OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL***

***Dontae Payne  
Mayor***