



## **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month May 2023**

**Whereas:** The City of Roseville is committed to recognizing and honoring the contributions of all members of our community; and

**Whereas:** In 1992, Congress passed Public Law 102-450 which annually designated May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; and

**Whereas:** The Month of May was selected to commemorate the immigration of Japanese citizens to the United States on May 7, 1843 and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 with the majority of the workers being Chinese Immigrants who were often mistreated; and

**Whereas:** Japanese American troops fought for freedom from tyranny abroad in World War II while their families here at home were interned simply on the basis of their ethnic origin; and

**Whereas:** In 1965, the Immigration and Nationality Act opened new doors of opportunity to more Asian and Pacific Islander Immigrants; and

**Whereas:** The end of the Vietnam War brought new Vietnamese, Cambodian, Hmong and Laotian communities to the United States of America and Minnesota; and

**Whereas:** There are over 20 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States with over 260,000 calling Minnesota home and with nearly 3500 in Roseville based on the 2020 Census; and

**Whereas:** Many Roseville residents identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander, particularly Hmong and Karen community members. They contribute to the vibrant community of Roseville through their rich cultures and also as business owners, educators, scientists, artists and many other ways; and

**Whereas:** The Hmong people began arriving in Minnesota in 1975 as refugees from the destructive wars in their homeland, in which the Twin Cities metro region has the largest concentration of Hmong people in America; and

**Whereas:** The Karen people have been oppressed in their homeland for decades and sought refuge in other places, with St Paul currently supporting one of the largest Karen communities in America; and

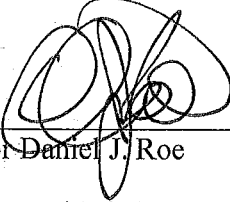
**Whereas:** Despite all the progress, many Asian American and Pacific Islanders continue to face persistent inequality and discrimination including barriers to equal access to education, employment, and healthcare. Asian Americans, especially those who are Muslim, Hindu or Sikh—too often face senseless violence and harassment due to the color of their skin, tenets of their faith, or merely by being Asian; and

**Whereas:** In 2023 Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month honors the theme of “Advancing Leaders Through Opportunity” and

**Whereas:** The City of Roseville invites all members of the Roseville Community to renew their commitment to ensuring cultural humility, racial equality, and justice by participating in activities designed to advance the cause of freedom and equality for all.

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved** that the City Council hereby declares the month of May 2023 to be Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month in the City of Roseville, County of Ramsey, State of Minnesota, U.S.A.

**In Witness whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Roseville be affixed this 24th day of April, 2023.

  
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Mayor Daniel J. Roe

