

# Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

## May 2023

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

~~Whereas:~~

~~In 1977, Rep Frank Horton of New York introduced House Joint Resolution 540 to proclaim the first ten days in May as Pacific/Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. This first legislation did not pass; and ~~(delete this section)~~~~

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

**Whereas:** The Month of May was selected to commemorate the immigration of the first 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. The majority of the workers were 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 of them calling Minnesota home; and *replace these numbers with current numbers*

~~**Whereas:** A growing number of Many Roseville Residents are of Asian and Pacific Island descent. They contribute to the vibrant community of Roseville *through their rich cultures* and also as business owners, teachers, scientists, artists and ~~through their rich cultures. *and in many other ways; and*~~~~

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

**Whereas:** In ~~2019~~ *2023* Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month honors the theme of ~~Advancing Leaders Through Collaboration~~ *“Advancing Leaders Through Opportunity”* and

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

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved** that the City Council hereby declare 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 ~~25th day of April,~~ *2022. add current date*