

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**  
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

<b>AGENDA TITLE:</b>	Proclamation Declaring May Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Recreation, Cultural, Community Services
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	Suni Tolton, Equity and Social Justice Program Coordinator
<b>ACTION:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proclamation

**ISSUE STATEMENT:**

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, also known as Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) or Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. AANHPI includes many diverse groups, including all of the Asian continent and the Pacific Islands of Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia. The 2020 U.S. Census found that Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders make up approximately 12% of WA State population, 23% of King County, and 16% of the city of Shoreline. AANHPI were the second largest population of color in WA after Hispanic/Latino population and the fastest growing, with a growth rate of 40%, compared to Hispanic/Latino 29% from 2010 to 2020.<sup>1</sup>

In 1977, members of the United States Congress dedicated several days at the beginning of May to celebrate the history, heritage, and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. President Jimmy Carter signed it into law in October 1978 and proclaimed the beginning of May 1979 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. In 1992, Congress expanded the week to the current month-long celebration.

May was chosen to honor significant events in U.S. history. May 7, 1843 is when the first Japanese immigrant, a 14-year old fisherman named Manjiro who arrived by a whaling ship arrived in the United States. The transcontinental railroad, built largely by Chinese immigrants, was completed on May 10, 1869. AANHPI communities have and are continuing to impact and shape U.S. history, arts and culture, science, technology, and society in meaningful ways to this day, even as Asian Americans have long fought against discrimination, prejudice, and institutional racism.

Although categorized together, different AANHPI communities have very specific histories, cultural practices, challenges, and unique to each group. Throughout the pandemic, anti-Asian bias, xenophobia, harassment, and violence were witnessed

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<sup>1</sup> [WA State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs 2020 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Demography Report](#)

throughout all the country and have been part of a long a history of anti-Asian harassment and discrimination, which continues to today. In 2022, anti-Asian hate crimes increased 339%, compared to the year before.<sup>2</sup>

The City of Shoreline is collaborating with community volunteers, the Shoreline Community College, Shoreline School District, Shoreline Historical Museum, Korean Community Service Center, and the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) to provide two community events.

On Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup> a free screening of the film [NAMBA: A Japanese American's Incarceration and Life of Resilience](#) will be shown followed by a Q&A with local JACL leaders and the filmmaker Emily Momohara. On Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup> an evening cultural celebration with performances by a local groups will include K-Pop, Hawaiian hula, Filipino folk dancing, and Japanese taiko drumming. Both events will be at Shoreline Community College theater.

This proclamation recognizes the history, culture, achievements, and contributions made by Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Americans in the U.S. and encourages all to learn more, not only in May, but throughout the year.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Mayor announce the issuance of the proclamation.

Approved By:            City Manager **BE**    City Attorney **MK**

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<sup>2</sup> [White House Proclamation on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, 2022](#)



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, May was adopted as Asian Pacific American Heritage month by Congress in 1992 to honor and celebrate the history, heritage, and contributions of Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander populations are made up of many diverse cultures with unique histories and experiences, which enrich our communities every day; and

**WHEREAS**, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are important members of our communities and have made valuable contributions to all parts of our society throughout U.S. history; and

**WHEREAS**, Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are the second largest population group in Washington state and the fastest growing; and

**WHEREAS**, We recognize the xenophobia, harassment, violence, and racism that Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities have faced for generations and most recently manifested during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, May provides an opportunity to celebrate and learn more about the current work our Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities are engaged in and how to support those efforts;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Keith Scully, Mayor of the City of Shoreline, on behalf of the Shoreline City Council, do hereby recognize May 2023 as

## ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

in the City of Shoreline and encourage all to learn more about the histories, cultures, contributions and achievements of Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

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Keith Scully, Mayor