

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

April 23, 2024

Proclaiming May 2024 as “Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month” in the County of Los Angeles

Since 1992, the United States has observed “Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month” in the month of May to celebrate and recognize the contributions, impact, and influence that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have made in every aspect of American life.

Los Angeles County (County) has the largest population of AAPI residents of any county in the nation. Almost 1.5 million residents of AAPI descent call LA County home, and the County takes pride in having many AAPI communities represented through ethnic enclaves. Chinatown, Little Tokyo, Historic Filipino town, Thai Town, Little Bangladesh, Koreatown; the cities in the San Gabriel Valley and South Bay; and unincorporated areas including Rowland Heights and Hacienda Heights all represent communities in which AAPI residents have thrived in Los Angeles County. Therefore, it is imperative and necessary for County to be an example of AAPI inclusion and

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advancement on the national stage.

The year 2024, in particular, has been a momentous year for the AAPIs here in the County and across the United States. With the celebration of the Year of the Dragon in February, a spirit of strength and renewal was inaugurated across the globe, one which endures as we at the County level recognize the strength, diversity, and rich history of the AAPI community. In the aftermath of the rise in hate incidents that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, the community came together in a spirit of healing, building coalitions and advocating for anti-hate programs nationwide. To this end, the County responded by creating the LA vs. Hate program, which has served as a vital resource for victims of hate incidents across the County.

It is also critical that the County not only provide vital resources during moments of adversity but also take steps to actively uplift AAPI communities. As the County strives to improve the lives of its more than 10 million residents, including its AAPI residents, it is important that it continue to highlight AAPI communities that have been historically marginalized and underserved. Through broader recognition and visibility, the County hopes that the community feels seen and heard, and ultimately welcome in accessing County resources.

The County is also proud to have a large contingent of AAPI employees who contribute and service the great needs of our residents, many of whom deliver information and resources in a culturally competent and linguistically inclusive manner for our large immigrant communities, whose ethno-linguistic backgrounds incorporate elements of over 30 countries and 100 spoken languages.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim May 2024 as

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) month.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct County Communications to promote County and County Department events celebrating the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) heritage, including highlighting employees who exemplify AAPI values and County Department programs and initiatives that support AAPI communities and promoting the work of our AAPI-related County employee relations; and
2. Recognize the Chinese Employee Association of Los Angeles County, Korean American Employee Association of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Asian American Employee Association, Los Angeles County Cambodian Employee Association, Los Angeles County Filipino American Employee Association, and the Vietnamese Employee Association of Los Angeles County for their dedication and service to the 10 million residents of LA County.

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