

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

MAY 5, 2026

AND KATHRYN BARGER

Proclaiming May 2026 “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. Nearly 1.5 million residents of AAPI descent call the County home, and Asian Americans are the fastest growing population in the County and across the country. The County is proud to have many AAPI communities represented through ethnic enclaves such as 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. The County recognizes the strength, diversity, and rich history of the AAPI community and is glad to have the opportunity to promote AAPI inclusion and advancement.

During, and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AAPI community in

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the County experienced numerous hate incidents including a deeply concerning 31% rise in hate crimes from 2022 to 2023. Throughout the past year, the AAPI community has also experienced terror and devastation stemming from the ICE raids and enhanced immigration crackdowns. Advocacy groups have reported seeing people taken directly from their homes, or from courthouses, inciting fear within the AAPI community and sometimes preventing people from safely showing up to work or school. Additionally, Asian immigrants make up nearly 40% of the family visa backlog, meaning that the additional barriers implemented by the federal administration, including a visa freeze for 75 countries, have disproportionately harmed the AAPI community. The administration’s tariffs, especially the tariffs on Chinese exports, have also placed immense strain on AAPI-owned small businesses and restaurants.

The County continues to take steps to actively uplift AAPI communities and to prioritize providing vital resources during these moments of adversity. The increased prevalence of hate crimes and the fallout resulting from ICE raids has also negatively impacted the mental health of many members of the AAPI community. Unfortunately, AAPI communities in the County and nationwide face significant disparities in mental health. AAPI residents have historically accessed mental health resources at lower rates, often attributed to language barriers, cultural attitudes, and stigma. Studies show that AAPI residents are less likely to utilize mental health services compared to other

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racial and ethnic groups. These barriers and limited availability of culturally appropriate providers can prevent people from getting the care they need. Given that May is also Mental Health Awareness Month, the County is recognizing “Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Day” to bring focused attention to this disparity and to provide resources to AAPI residents to break down barriers to accessing mental health services.

The County is proud to have a large contingent of AAPI employees who contribute and service the great needs of this County, 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. Through broader recognition and visibility, the County hopes that all members of the AAPI community feel seen and heard, and ultimately welcome in accessing County resources.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim May 2026 as “Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month” and May 10, 2026 as “Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Mental Health Day”.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct County Communications to promote County and County Department events, activities, and programs celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) heritage on County websites and social media platforms.

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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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