

PROCLAMATION

THE MONTH OF MAY IS ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN BROOKLYN PARK

WHEREAS, 18.9 percent of Brooklyn Park residents are of Asian/Pacific Islanders descent, according to the July 2019 United States Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, more than 20 million people of Asian or Pacific Islander descent live in the United States, according to the 2018 American Community Survey; and

WHEREAS, the history of North America is shaped by the stories of immigrants from Asia and the Pacific and the native people of the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, some of the earliest Asian immigrants arrived from China, Japan, India, and Korea; immigration reforms tied to U.S. civil rights legislation brought even more groups to the United States—such as Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians, Indonesians, Hmong and other people from South and Central Asia; and

WHEREAS, Asian immigrants contributed significantly to the history of American nation-building and westward expansion; and

WHEREAS, the month of May commemorates the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1978, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was originally observed as “Asian-Pacific American Heritage Week” under President Jimmy Carter, but it was later extended to a month during President George H.W. Bush’s term in 1990.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONJA WEST-HAFNER, on behalf of the City Council, city staff, residents, and the community at-large, do hereby proclaim that we hereby recognize May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month in Brooklyn Park to recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of the Asian-Pacific American community.



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Tonja West-Hafner, Mayor Pro Tem