

Whereas

- Whereas,* Portland is home to more than 45,000 community members who trace their roots to the Pacific Islands and Asia; and
- Whereas,* the Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, and Southeast, South, and East Asian American communities are proud of their diversity and draw strength from their rich cultures and traditions; and
- Whereas,* Portland's AAPI members come from a complex and diverse mix of many languages, ethnicities, and faiths, including Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism; and
- Whereas,* The U.S. has experienced a 150% rise in anti-Asian hate crimes with a disproportionate number against women in the last year with at least 3,800 incidents reported; and
- Whereas,* Anti-Asian hate crimes were spurred on by reference to the COVID-19 virus as the "Chinese Virus," "Wuhan Virus," and "Kung Flu," in place of the scientific name for the virus; and
- Whereas,* City Council declared the City of Portland a Welcoming City, a Sanctuary City, and an Inclusive City for all Resolution 37277 adopted by Council on March 2nd, 2017; and
- Whereas,* Portland City Code Section 23.01.010 states that "[i]t is the policy of the City of Portland to eliminate discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or source of income. Such discrimination poses a threat to the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Portland and menaces the institutions and foundation of our community"; and
- Whereas,* Portland City Council in 2016 adopted Code Section 3.131.010, establishing the New Portlanders Policy Commission to "advise the City on policies and practices to integrate immigrant and refugee communities' voices and needs into the provision of City services, City decision-making and civic engagement in Portland"; and
- Whereas,* City Council acknowledges the challenges faced by all Portlanders during the COVID-19 crisis—while specifically people of Asian American and Asian Pacific Islander descent have been subject to hate crimes, we acknowledge that Black and Indigenous communities are disproportionately impacted by the highest infection and fatality rate due to the health disparities perpetuated by systemic racism.; and
- Whereas,* Portland City Council believes that all immigrants and refugees are critical additions to the social and economic wellbeing of the city; and
- Whereas,* on June 24th, 2020 the New Portlanders Policy Commission, Portland United Against Hate, and APANO presented a proclamation condemning Anti-Asian crimes to city council; and

Whereas

Whereas, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is an opportunity for all individuals and organizations to recognize AAPI contributions, development, and defense for our country; as well as the cultural, civic, and economic life of Portland for over 150 years; and

Whereas, Portland, through dialogue with representatives from Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, continues to address the needs and concerns of its community members and remains committed to seek solutions to problems such as prejudice, discrimination, and violence; and

Now, therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the “City of Roses,” do hereby proclaim May 2021 to be

Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

In Portland and encourage all residents to observe this Month.

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Proclaim May 2021 to be Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
(Proclamation introduced by Mayor Wheeler)

May 5, 2021
Placed on file

Filed April 27, 2021

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By *Keelan McClymont*
Deputy

Commissioners voted as follows (Yea or Nay)

Rubio -
Ryan -
Hardesty -
Mapps -
Wheeler -