

## **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

**May 2021**

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage in the United States was celebrated beginning in 1978, originally designated as one week in May, and was made into a month-long event in 1992. This month seeks to honor and recognize the contributions of AAPI community members.

AAPI is a broad term, and it is important to remember that the AAPI community is not a monolith; in fact, such thinking can result in the erasure of their unique identities. The AAPI community consists of approximately 50 ethnic groups speaking over 100 languages, with connections to Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Filipino, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Korean, Hawaiian, and other Asian and Pacific Islander ancestries. When advocating for and serving these communities we must be inclusive and acknowledge the many ethnic groups that the AAPI term encompasses.

This community has endured a long history of injustice -- such as the Page Act of 1875, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Expatriation Act of 1907, the incarceration of Japanese American citizens during World War II, the Watsonville Riots of 1930, the murder of Vincent Chin, the mass shooting of Southeast Asian refugee children in 1989, and the targeting of South Asian Americans, especially those who are Muslim, Hindu, or Sikh, after the national tragedy of 9/11.

Discrimination and violence against the AAPI community continues today, with a sharp increase in these attacks following the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of worldwide distress about the deadly virus, the AAPI community has experienced additional collective traumas and stoked fears regarding the rise in anti-Asian hate.

Acts of anti-Asian bias are wrong, they are un-American, and they must stop. The Boulder City Council will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with AAPI communities in condemning, denouncing, and preventing these acts of violence. We will continue to look for opportunities to heal together and fight against the racism and xenophobia that still exists in our communities.

We, the City Council of the City of Boulder, Colorado declare May as

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And encourage everyone in the community to join in honoring and celebrating by supporting organizations and causes that uplift and empower AAPI communities; learning about their cultures and histories; buying from AAPI-owned businesses; amplifying AAPI creators, educators, and activists; and celebrating the accomplishments of this community, their joy and their beautiful experiences.



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**Sam Weaver, Mayor**

