

BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO

**RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MAY AS ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH**

- WHEREAS,** The history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** There are approximately 22,000,000 residents of the United States who identify as Asian and approximately 1,600,000 residents of the United States who identify as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, making up nearly 7 percent of the total population of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** The Asian-American and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects; and
- WHEREAS,** Since migrating to the United States, people of Asian/Pacific descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also setting fine examples of model citizens and public servants; and
- WHEREAS,** Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made valuable contributions to every aspect of American society—in medicine, law, business, technology, civic engagement, military service, government, and culture; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2020, Kamala Harris became the first person of South Asian descent to serve as Vice President of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** Even as we celebrate the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, we must also commit to combating the recent rise in hate crimes directed toward people of Asian descent in the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic; and
- WHEREAS,** There is a need for public education, awareness, and policies that are culturally competent when describing, discussing, and addressing the impacts of being Asian/Pacific American in all aspects of American society; and
- WHEREAS,** The month of May was selected for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants; and
- WHEREAS,** The incredible contributions and heritage of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities have helped us build a better Detroit and a better Nation;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council recognizes May 2024 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.