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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: April 24, 2023

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

Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a **RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MAY AS ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH.**

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

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 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

