

City of Kenmore, Washington

Asian American and Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander Heritage Month

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the origin of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the United States dates back to 1978 when a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week in early May to coincide with two important milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843, and contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed May 10, 1869. In addition, prior to these events, Filipinos were early immigrants and contributors in many port cities; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the first Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month was designated by presidential proclamation and in 1992, Congress permanently designated May of each year as a monthlong celebration that is now known as Asian American, Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans, and Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders make our Nation more vibrant through a diversity of cultures, languages, and religions. There is no single story of the AANHPI experience, but rather a diversity of contributions that enrich America's culture and society; and

WHEREAS, we also celebrate and honor the invaluable contributions the AANHPI communities have made to the arts, law, science and technology, sports, and public service; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Americans continue to enrich our region's economy, culture, education, politics, arts, literature, science and technological developments despite institutional and systemic injustices that prevent and limit these achievements and contributions; and

WHEREAS, the Kenmore City Council reaffirmed its commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion by naming it one of its top three priorities of 2021, and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the AANHPI community accounts for nearly 11% of Kenmore's resident population and are therefore an invaluable force in shaping this community and its values; and

WHEREAS, despite the strength shown and successes achieved, the American dream remains out of reach for far too many AANHPI families. AANHPI communities face systemic barriers to economic justice, health equity, educational attainment, and personal safety, in addition to heightened fear felt by many Asian American communities in the wake of increasing rates of anti-Asian harassment and violence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kenmore affirms that Asian Americans and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders make our city stronger, and our experience in Kenmore more enriching.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Baker, Mayor of the City of Kenmore, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **May 2021 as Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Month** throughout the City of Kenmore and call upon our community to learn more about those of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander heritage to celebrate this month with appropriate programs and activities. **IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, signed this 10th day of May 2021.



Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Baker", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor David Baker

Attested:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anastasiya Warhol", written over a horizontal line.

City Clerk Anastasiya Warhol