

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 252

Approved May 21, 2025

WHEREAS, Each May, communities across the country observe Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month in order to honor and celebrate the rich history, diverse cultures and invaluable contributions of individuals of Asian and Pacific Islander descent; and

WHEREAS, The AAPI community encompasses a wide range of cultures, languages and histories from East, Southeast, South and Central Asia, the Pacific Islands and indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence is proud to be home to a vibrant and growing AAPI Community, whose diverse cultures and contributions enrich the city's identity and vitality through leadership in advocacy, the arts, public service, education, healthcare and entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, Providence's AAPI residents have played an essential role in shaping the economic, educational, cultural, civic and social landscape of our City, spanning from the thriving small businesses on Broad Street to the vibrant student and academic communities in our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, AAPI Heritage Month also serves as a time to reflect on the historical and ongoing challenges faced by our AAPI communities here in Providence and across the nation, including the rise in anti-Asian hate and xenophobia, and to reaffirm the City's commitment to the principles of equity, inclusion and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence values the multicultural fabric of all of its neighborhoods and stands in solidarity with its AAPI residents, recognizing their resilience, accomplishments and lasting impact on our neighborhoods and shared community; and

WHEREAS, On March 26, 2025, the City of Providence proudly celebrated the grand opening of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) History Museum at 44 Hospital Street in the Jewelry District, a historic occasion that signified the establishment of the nation's first museum dedicated exclusively to the AAPI immigrant experience; and

WHEREAS, The AAPI History Museum, founded by Jeannie Salomon and curated in collaboration with Acting Museum Manager Setha Phongsavan, originated as a mobile museum initiative launched in September of 2024 and has since evolved into a permanent institution, made possible through grant funding support from organizations such as the Mellon Foundation; and

WHEREAS, The museum features interactive displays organized into thematic sections of Identity, Migration & Immigration, Solidarity, and Activism, providing educational resources and fostering dialogue about the experiences, histories and impact of AAPI communities in Providence and across the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council formally recognizes the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month in the City of Providence and commends the establishment of the AAPI History Museum, acknowledging its role in preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of AAPI communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council encourages all residents to immerse themselves in the histories, cultures and achievements of the AAPI community, uplift and create space for AAPI voices and stand united against discrimination and injustice in all forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the AAPI History Museum in Providence, the Alliance of RI Southeast Asians (ARISE) and the Center for Southeast Asians (CSEA) as a token of the City Council's gratitude and solidarity.


IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 15 2025
READ AND PASSED



RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT


CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor
Date: 5/21/25