

PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MAY 2022 AS

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, & Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) Heritage Month

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WHEREAS, the AANHPI community is among the fastest growing and most diverse racial groups in the United States and AANHPI have made significant economic, political, and social contributions, and, according to the 2019 Census Population estimates, AANHPI are 32.1% of residents of San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in four people in the world have a mental health and substance use condition, and the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted AANHPI communities, exacerbating existing inequities to mental health and substance use challenges among AANHPI residents; and

WHEREAS, the AANHPI population is under-resourced and underrepresented in behavioral health and the AANHPI community uses behavioral health services at the lowest rates among systemically minority populations, which is attributed to cultural stigma, limited behavioral health literacy, a shortage of linguistically and culturally appropriate providers, and a dearth of culturally sensitive outreach and lack of disaggregated data on groups that comprise the AANHPI population makes it difficult to address unique mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, the AANHPI population suffered an increase in violent and hate incidents in the COVID-19 pandemic, compounding the stressors the community has experienced even before this global health crisis and racism against AANHPIs has existed San Mateo County, this includes the internment of 8,000 Japanese Americans at the Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno in 1942, and the Southwood community in South San Francisco which voted against a Chinese American family moving into a neighborhood in 1952; and

WHEREAS, increasing education and sharing of stories of and by AANHPI community members, overcoming struggles around mental health and substance use conditions can reduce stigma and empower the AANHPI community to take action for wellness; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Health Equity Initiatives, the Chinese Health Initiative, Filipino Mental Health Initiative and Pacific Islander Initiative, are working together to amplify voices of our respective and collective communities toward wellness and equity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates the month of May 2022 as (AANHPI) Heritage Month, calling upon San Mateo County to commit purposefully, with cultural humility, in addressing the behavioral health inequities of our AANHPI community. The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo also commits to providing a seat at every table for the Asian American presence, the Native Hawaiian presence, and the Pacific Islander presence to be heard, seen, and consulted in all matters related to the community.

Dated: May 17, 2022

SUPERVISORS:

DON HORSLEY, PRESIDENT

DAVE PINE

CAROLE GROOM

DAVID CANEPA

WARREN SLOCUM

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors