

# PROCLAMATION

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

May 2023

*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. AANHPI have made significant economic, political, and social contributions. 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 in their lifetime, which can impair one’s ability to work, pursue an education, enjoy healthy relationships, participate in the community, and live a fulfilling life. Mental health and substance use issues impacts people of all demographics, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, and religion; and

**WHEREAS**, May 10th is AANHPI Mental Health Day in San Mateo County. AANHPI communities use behavioral health services at the lowest rates among systemically minoritized populations. This is attributed to cultural stigma, limited behavioral health literacy, a shortage of linguistically appropriate and culturally attuned service providers, and a dearth of culturally sensitive outreach and programming; and

**WHEREAS**, our AANHPI population is severely under-resourced and underrepresented in behavioral health research, workforce, and policy discussions. The lack of disaggregated data on the groups that comprise the AANHPI population makes it difficult to address each communities’ unique mental health challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic also disproportionately impacted AANHPI communities and exacerbated existing inequities to addressing mental health and substance use challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the AANHPI population suffered an increase in violent attacks and hate incidents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, compounding the stressors experienced even before this global health crisis. Racism against AANHPIs is not new and in 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 the neighborhood in 1952; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing education and sharing of lived experiences or personal stories of AANHPI community members, by AANHPI community members, facing and overcoming struggles; and offering a message of hope around mental health and substance use conditions are some of the most effective ways to reduce stigma, validate the journey, and empower the AANHPI community to take action to increase wellness; and

**WHEREAS**, community building and promotion of existing cultural or indigenous wellness practices, strengthens resilience and lessens the negative impacts of behavioral health conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Office of Diversity and Equity’s Health Equity Initiatives, the Chinese Health Initiative, Filipino Mental Health Initiative and Pacific Islander Initiative, are working together to unify and amplify voices of our respective and collective communities toward wellness and equity, while imploring county officials to have intentional dialogue with stakeholders about creating policies and funding opportunities that address the increased health disparities among AANHPI communities;

**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 2023 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, & Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) Heritage Month and calls upon San Mateo County residents, public and private institutions, and the collective community to commit to purposefully, with cultural humility, address the behavioral health inequities and needs of our AANHPI community in San Mateo County through financial, legal, social, and political measures. In addition, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo commits to providing a seat at every table for the Asian American voice and presence, the Native Hawaiian voice and presence, and the Pacific Islander voice and presence to be heard, seen, and consulted in all matters related to our AANHPI community locally, nationally, and globally.

*Dated:*

*SUPERVISORS:*

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*DAVE PINE, PRESIDENT*

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*RAY MUELLER*

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*NOELIA CORZO*

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*DAVID J. CANEPA*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*WARREN SLOCUM*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors