

Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704
PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177 kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

CONSENT CALENDAR

April 30, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Proclamation Honoring Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a proclamation honoring May as Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month

BACKGROUND

In 1978 Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution to commemorate Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May. It was chosen because of two important and significant anniversaries that took place during this time: The first Japanese immigrants in America on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad by many Chinese laborers, on May 10, 1869.

In 1990 Congress voted to expand the commemoration from one week to an entire month of celebration. In May 2009, President Obama officially proclaimed the month of May as "Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month" in celebration of the culture, traditions, and history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

There are 26.7 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California. This is one of the fastest growing ethnic populations in the state. According to the 2010 census, Asian persons represented 19.3% of Berkeley's population.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders contribute many resources that enrich our social, economic and political fabric. Some of the many contributions range from housing and job services, to organizing local and grassroots campaigns for economic and political justice, to serving on commissions and for the city, to creating wonderful music, dance, art, poetry and theater. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been critical to keeping the diverse quality of life that Berkeley holds so dear.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None.

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 510-981-7170

Attachment:

1. Proclamation Honoring May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

HONOR MAY AS ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, The earliest Asian Americans immigrated to the United States in the 1800's; and

WHEREAS, Many Asian laborers contributed to the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played a critical role in the social, economic, and political development of California throughout its history; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander entrepreneurs have led many of California's businesses to the pinnacle of their respective industries; and

WHEREAS, The 26.7 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California are one of the fastest growing ethnic populations in the states; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders represent 19.3% of Berkeley's population and represent ancestries that include Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese, East Indian, Filipino, Guamanian, Hawaiian, Hmong, Indonesian, Iu-Mien, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Singaporean, Thai, Tongan, Vietnamese, Samoan, Guamanian, and Native Hawaiian; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders immigrants have contributed greatly to CA's econ success, rural growth and urban development; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders entrepreneurs have led many of CA's businesses to the pinnacle of their respective industries; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities throughout Berkeley actively promote their cultural heritage and promote cross cultural understanding; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will continue to be an important part of Berkeley's diverse tapestry of cultures and ideas; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have a proud legacy of service and dedication to our community, our city, our state and our country; and

WHEREAS, May has become a symbolic month in which Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and supporters come together in various celebrations of culture, traditions and history; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley hereby declares the month of May 2013 to be:

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

We invite everyone to reflect on their notable accomplishments and outstanding services to the nation, California and the City of Berkeley.