

P R O C L A M A T I O N

ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER, DESI HERITAGE MONTH

MAY, 2023

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander Desi Heritage (AANHPID) month seeks to honor and recognize the contributions of residents from Asia, India, and the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate all of those who are included within the AANHPID community, which is made up of culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, representing populations from many countries and islands; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was chosen as Asian American and Pacific Islander Desi Heritage Month to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese citizen, Nakahama Manjiro, to the United States on May 7, 1843, but also the anniversary of the May 10, 1869 completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad, built with the back-breaking labor of nearly 20,000 Chinese immigrants.

WHEREAS, during this unprecedented global pandemic in modern history, in which hate and bias incidents against Asian and Pacific Islanders have sharply increased we recognize that Asian American communities have experienced a 339% increase in hate crimes since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic; the Asian American community like other communities of color have a painful history of exclusion, injustices, and disparities in the United States. and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park remains committed to supporting its Asian American population and to condemning all acts of racism, xenophobia, and intolerance. As discrimination and all acts of hate has no home here in Oak Park; and

WHEREAS, as the state of Illinois in 2021 became the first state to require the teaching of the Asian American History; The Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History (TEACCH) Act amends the Illinois School Code to ensure that students in every public elementary and high school in Illinois learn about the contributions of Asian Americans to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States.

WHEREAS, Oak Park will have events to celebrate the Asian American community. The Oak Park library will have an event on May 21. This event will be an afternoon of celebration, featuring activities for children and intergenerational families, reading and signing of books by Asian Pacific Islander Desi American authors, music by local bands, and performances by local groups.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, Village President of the Village of Oak Park, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Desi Heritage in the Village of Oak Park and call upon the community to attend events, learn, and engage around the vibrant collective history, and culture of our Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Desi community.

DATED this 8th day of May, 2023.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk