

RESOLUTION NUMBER 31
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month has been celebrated and recognized at the federal level since 1977, being officially signed into law by President Jimmy Carter in 1978; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, which was largely built by Chinese American laborers, a few hundred of whom settled Hop Alley, St. Louis' original Chinatown; and

WHEREAS, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was expanded to vast regions of Asia beyond China, including India, and led to discrimination in the United States in areas including housing, employment, zoning, and land ownership, barring entry for people who wanted to immigrate from Asia; and

WHEREAS, the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act opened up restrictive quotas and permitted family-based reunification that allowed Asian Pacific Americans to reunify with loved family members, many of whom settled in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, the earliest Asian Pacific American recorded in St. Louis was Alla Lee in 1857, and hundreds of thousands of immigrants and refugees and their descendants have enriched St. Louis' cultural and economic diversity through the years including Vietnamese refugees starting in the 1970s, who now make up one of the largest ethnic populations in the city; and

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific Americans have made great contributions to the city of St. Louis in the including the areas of arts, architecture, design, education, engineering, gastronomy, medicine, nonprofits, sports and technology; and

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific Americans are a deep part of the sociocultural fabric of St. Louis, and have established schools, community centers, places of worship, businesses, and nonprofits that have enriched St. Louisans; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the St. Louis City Recorder of Deeds to bring the general public together on May 6, 2019 at the 1st Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration at City Hall to recognize the deep and lasting history of Asian Pacific Americans and to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of Asian Pacific Americans in St. Louis including Anna Crosslin, Harold and Helena Law, Lona Luo, Kiku Obata, and Suchin Prapaisilp.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to recognize this May as the 1st Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebrated in St. Louis City and confirm that we are grateful to the diverse Asian Pacific American community for sharing their traditions and customs with the residents of St. Louis and their many contributions to the Midwest region. We further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a memorial copy to the end that it may be presented at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 3rd day of May, 2019 by:

Honorable Bret Narayan, 24th Ward Alderman
Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen

Adopted this 3rd day of May, 2019 as attested by

Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen