

Proclamation

- WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AA and NHPIs) Heritage Month is an annual celebration every May that recognizes the historical and current contributions of individuals and groups of Asian, Hawaiian and Pacific Islander descent within the United States. The AA and NHPI umbrella term includes communities from the entire Asian continent, including East, Southeast and South Asia, the Hawaiian Islands, and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. As of last year, there were about 24.3 million people of Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander descent in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, the Chuukese community were under the rule of the United States from the end of World War II until 1986; and
- WHEREAS, people of Chuuk have access to many US Domestic programs, including hazard mitigation programs, Medicaid benefits, and Pell Grants; and
- WHEREAS, Vancouver is home to the first graduating class of Chuuk interpreters through the work of Fourth Plain Forward; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver recognizes the innumerable contributions, vibrant cultures, and rich histories of AA and NHPI. As some of the fastest-growing racial and ethnic groups in the Nation and Vancouver, AA and NHPI communities represent a multitude of ethnicities, languages, and experiences that enrich our community; and
- WHEREAS, we cannot deny the unique challenges, exclusionary laws, and racially motivated discrimination and harassment, and we can commit to working together to strengthen our community for the future; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver stands resolute in our commitment to denouncing hate wherever it arises and advancing equity as we become a more inclusive and just Vancouver in which all residents are respected and recognized for their real and potential contributions to our community, state, country and world; and
- WHEREAS, this month we proudly celebrate the rich culture and history of Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islander heritage and history in the City of Vancouver, as we dedicate ourselves to working together to address the challenges that still face so many of our neighbors and members of the Vancouver community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor Vancouver, Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as:

Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

and urge all members of our community to learn more about Chuukese heritage and join us in striving to make our community vibrant, safe, prosperous and inclusive for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 1st day of May, 2023.



Anne McEnery-Ogle
ANNE McENERY-OGLE, MAYOR