

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AA and NHPs) 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, there are 2.7 million Indian Americans in the U.S. population and there are over 16,000 in the Vancouver Metropolitan Area and about 200,000 in the State of Washington; and
- WHEREAS, we recognize the historical struggles and injustices faced by Indian American communities, including discriminatory laws, racial prejudice, and exclusionary practices, like the Immigration Act of 1917; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver recognizes the Indian American community's dedication to their faith and the community, and their contributions to the rich cultural tapestry of the United States; and
- WHEREAS, Indian American organizations, including faith-based groups, bring the community together to promote Indian culture, provide philanthropic services, and inclusive community engagement in the Vancouver area; and
- WHEREAS, the ancient cultural heritage of India enriches the City of Vancouver through various cultural traditions, art and music, cuisine, and vibrant festivals and events; 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.

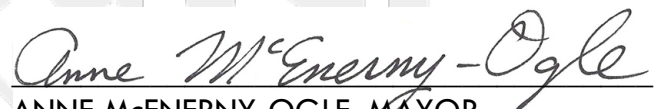
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor Vancouver, Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as:

## **Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

and urge all members of our community to learn more about Indian 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 22nd day of May, 2023.

  
ANNE McENERY-OGLE, MAYOR