

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

DRAFT

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS  
JANANI RAMACHANDRAN AND ROWENA BROWN

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### **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2025 AS ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER (AANHPI) HERITAGE MONTH IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND HONORING ASIAN AMERICANS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CULTURE AND VIBRANCY OF OAKLAND**

**WHEREAS**, Asian Americans make up a diverse group of communities from the entire Asian continent, including East, Southeast and South Asia, the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, and Native Hawaiians – together these groups make up about 7 percent of the total U.S. population; and

**WHEREAS**, AANHPI people have had a long history in the United States, from Filipinos escaping forced labor and enslavement in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, to migrating to the West Coast to work in gold mines and factories during the California Gold Rush of the 1850's; to refugees from Southeast Asia coming to the United States to escape war, violence, and economic hardship during the 1970's; and

**WHEREAS**, AANHPI month is celebrated during the month of May and was designated starting in 1978 to both commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the U.S. on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, which was built primarily by Chinese immigrant workers; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1991, communities across the United States have celebrated the contributions and influence of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islander American communities in the month of May; and

**WHEREAS**, in the history of the United States, Asian Americans have suffered mistreatment, xenophobia, and racism, despite their deep history working to make this country better, from the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, to the Japanese internment camps during World War II, to an increase in anti-Asian hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to anti-Asian violence, advocacy organizations and grassroots coalitions have responded, spearheading efforts to prevent discrimination and harassment and work toward justice and equity in the AANHPI community in California and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, today we honor Asian American leaders who have positively impacted Oakland's economy, culture, and vibrancy with their dedication and resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, District 1 Councilmember Zac Unger honors Kevin Nuuhiwa, the proud son of Mr. and Mrs. James and Sharon Nuuhiwa. His father, Mr. James Nuuhiwa, rose from humble beginnings and came to California from Hawaii in 1958. His descendants are extremely proud of their Hawaiian heritage, and they belong to a group known as the 100 percenters—a reflection of their deep cultural roots and strong sense of identity. Rooted in cultural heritage and strong values passed down from his parents, Kevin Nuuhiwa went on to dedicate over 40 years of his life to serving as a Fire Fighter, serving with bravery, honor, and distinction. During his tenure, he was assigned to three fire stations: Station 1, Station 26, and Station 4. He retired as a respected Fire Captain after holding that title for 21 years. Kevin's leadership extended beyond city boundaries—he was a founding member of both FEMA Urban Search and Rescue and the Rescue Company at Station 1. His courage and dedication were exemplified most notably when he responded to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Kevin Nuuhiwa's service stands as a powerful legacy of commitment, sacrifice, and leadership within the City of Oakland and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, District 2 Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan honors Chien Nguyen. Chien Nguyen is a proud Vietnamese-American community leader, born in Oakland and raised in Berkeley and Oakland public housing. As the Clinton Park Site Director for Trybe, Chien has emerged as a key organizer in revitalizing Oakland's Little Saigon. He works to create a future in which collective efforts from community organizations, schools, small businesses, local government, residents, and youth programs transform Little Saigon into a safe, vibrant, and economically thriving neighborhood - one where young people grow with a sense of joyful belonging, guidance and opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, District 3 Councilmember Carroll Fife is proud to recognize world champion figure skater Alysa Liu. Alysa started skating at age 5 when her father brought her to the Oakland Ice Center to participate in the Learn to Skate program and started private lessons soon after. Alysa became the youngest-ever U.S. women's national champion when she won her first title at age 13. At age 14, she became the youngest skater to win two senior national titles. Alysa is the first woman to win two consecutive U.S. titles. An accomplished jumper, Alysa was the first American junior women's singles skater to successfully complete a triple Axel in international competition, and also the first American woman to land a quadruple jump. The Oakland Ice Center in District 3 serves as Alysa's home rink and it is an honor to have a world-class athlete in this space; and

**WHEREAS**, District 7 Councilmember Ken Houston honors Hans Niusulu, also known as 'Chino' in the community, a Samoan/Japanese American who has been an Oakland resident for over 47 years. He is closely associated with the Beautification Council, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Oakland, California. Through this organization, Chino has been able to share his passionate mission to help make the City of Oakland a safer and cleaner place for the community he loves so deeply. Chino experienced homelessness for over six years before becoming an MCS-1 Micro Cleaning Sanitization expert for the Beautification Council. He advanced rapidly,

eventually becoming the face of the organization and leading projects at the city, county, and state levels across Alameda County. This opportunity not only provided him with employment but also allowed him to reconnect with his family. Hans ‘Chino’ Niusulu is not only an inspiration, but he also gives hope and motivation to the unhoused and justice-impacted individuals, showing them that change and opportunity are possible; and

**WHEREAS**, At-Large Councilmember Rowena Brown is proud to honor Danny Wan, the former District 2 Councilmember and Executive Director of the Port of Oakland. During his decades of service to Oakland and the Port; which stewards Oakland’s airport, seaport, and miles of waterfront; Mr. Wan strengthened our city’s economy while always centering community wellbeing. Mr. Wan accelerated the Port as an economic engine for Oakland, and courageously led in making the Port as sustainable and environmentally just as possible. We applaud you for supporting our youth, championing language access, fighting for livable wages, securing funding for critical projects, and so much more that you’ve accomplished over your illustrious career; and

**WHEREAS**, in spite of President Donald Trump eliminating federal recognition of AANHPI month, revoking DEI initiatives across the nation, and officially renouncing all efforts to honor the contributions of diverse communities across our country, Oakland continues to stand committed to celebrating our diverse ethnic populations and lifting up the significant contributions of Asian Americans to our city; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland celebrates Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month in the City of Oakland and Honoring Asian Americans who contribute to the culture and vibrancy of Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROWN, FIFE, GALLO, HOUSTON, RAMACHANDRAN, UNGER, WANG,  
AND PRESIDENT JENKINS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
ASHA REED  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California

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