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City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 87675 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER SHENG THAO AND COUNCILMEMBER NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS

RESOLUTION IN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH HONORING ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS WHOSE SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP IN OAKLAND CONTRIBUTE TO THE CITY'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND ITS SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have made essential and enduring contributions to the history of Oakland, California and the nation, helping to build, defend, and strengthen our nation – as farmworkers and railroad laborers, entrepreneurs and scientists, soldiers, public sector workers, health professionals, community activists and leaders of government; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have endured hardships, including unjust working conditions, prejudice, and discrimination in some of the darkest times in our country's history, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, naturalized citizenship ineligibility, the Alien Land Law, anti-miscegenation laws, and Japanese internment; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans continue to cultivate and advance innovative knowledge, economic growth and unique cultural vitality in the fields of art, fashion, business, technology, medicine, science, education, government, law, humanities, sports and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have led and joined a long legacy of activism and organizing in the United States in the movements for civil rights, immigrants' rights, women's rights, workers' rights, LGBTQ rights, racial justice, and environmental justice, much of which took root in Oakland and the surrounding Bay Area during the 1960s and continues on today; and

WHEREAS, Oakland is home to nearly 70,000 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, and Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are one of the fastest growing ethnic populations in California; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans comprise more than 17 percent of Oakland's population and represent diverse ancestries that include, but are not limited to, Asian Indian, Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian, Chamorro, Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Iu-Mien, Iwo Jiman, Guamanian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Maldivian, Mongolian, Nepalese, Native Hawaiian, Vietnamese, Okinawan, Pakistani, Samoan, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Thai, Tongan, and other Pacific Islander; and

WHEREAS, there are many challenges that predominantly Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander members of the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander American community are facing, including higher rates of poverty, incarceration, health disparities, and limited English proficiency; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are impacted by inequity in the City of Oakland, for example, Oakland's Equity Indicators Report gave the city a score of 1 out of 100 in Pedestrian Safety and found that majority-Asian census tracts had the highest percent of streets in the High Injury Network for pedestrians (30%), and the percent of streets with pedestrian safety concerns in majority Asian census tracts was 13.16 times the percent in majority White census tracts; and

WHEREAS, California's Asian and Pacific Islander American entrepreneurs are innovative and lead many successful businesses at the leading edge of their industries nationally and globally, and own many businesses in Oakland's diverse neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the federal government and the State of California officially designate May as "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month;" and

WHEREAS, District 1 is honoring **Miya Yoshitani** Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), a long-time environmental and social justice champion with an extensive background in community organizing. In addition to being a board member for Oakland's Center for Story-Based Strategy, Miya is on the steering committee for the California Environmental Justice Alliance and is a board member of the Oakland-based Center for Environmental Health. Through her many years of leadership, Miya has guided and supported APEN's expansion and influence from a local community-based organization in the Bay Area to having a meaningful statewide impact through an integrated API voter engagement strategy, a statewide Asian Pacific American Climate Coalition, and winning transformational state policy for equitable climate solutions and transitioning the state to a clean energy economy for all Californians. Ms. Yoshitani's hard work over the years show that she is an effective movement leader in many key local, state, and national alliances and truly is a valued member of Oakland's public interest community through improving the environmental health and well-being of immigrant and refugee communities and low-income working families; and

WHEREAS, District 2 is honoring the **Asian Pacific Environmental Network** (APEN) for over 25 years of work organizing and advocating for low income Asian American, Pacific Islander, immigrant and refugee communities in the East Bay and beyond, with a strong base in Oakland Chinatown and Richmond. APEN works toward a vision in which all people have a right to a clean and healthy environment in which their communities can live, work, learn, play and thrive. APEN brings together a collective voice to promote environmental, social and economic justice. Through building an organized movement, APEN works with economic and social institutions to prioritize public good over profits and promote the right of every person to a decent, safe, affordable quality of life, and the right to participate in decisions affecting our lives. This includes protecting communities from dirty energy sources while obtaining green jobs and development with community benefits, securing existing affordable housing while encouraging the building of more, providing economic opportunities, expanding civic engagement, and enhancing local leadership to reflect these values; and

WHEREAS, District 3 is honoring **Joseph Jung**, for his 22 years of leadership and service to the Bay Area Korean American Community. Joseph was born in South Korea and immigrated to the US at the age of 16 where he graduated from first UCLA with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and then USF School of Law. As a practitioner of the law for 22 years specializing in personal injury, immigration and criminal defense, Joseph concurrently devotes his time to serving in numerous Korean community organizations in various capacities including as Chairman of the Board for The East Bay Korean American Senior Services from 2004- 2008, President of The SF Korean American Lions Club in 2010, and now as President of both The Koreatown Northgate Community Benefit District and The Oakland & Eastbay Korean American Association. Joseph is proud to live and work in Oakland where he is happily married to Suzie Jung, his wife of 22 years, along with their children Eunice and Justin; and

WHEREAS, District 4 is honoring small business owner **Atikom (Arty) Larpnampha**. Arty was born in Bangkok Thailand and graduated from Kasetsart University earning a bachelor's degree in finance. After graduation, Arty came to the United States to pursue a Masters Degree in International Business at Lincoln University in Oakland. Arty juggled classes and managed multiple Thai restaurants while saving money to start his own business. Within a few years Arty became the owner and operator of five established restaurants in San Francisco, Oakland, Portland, Oregon and soon to be Los Angeles. While pursuing his business goals, Arty also received certification from State and Federal agencies to serve as a licensed tax consultant. Arty is also a prominent and devout Buddhist who works tirelessly with various temples around the bay area to provide spiritual welfare for the Thai Buddhist community. Recently, Arty organized a successful Thai, Lao, Myanmar and Cambodian Songkran Festival/New Year Celebration at Jack London Square, which brought thousands of people together to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of the people of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, District 5 is honoring **Eleanor Angeles**, Attorney at Law. Eleanor works as the Community Director at the Alameda Labor Council. Eleanor was born in Manila, Philippines and immigrated with her parents to San Diego at an early age. She grew up in a community of color with military and working-class families in San Diego. When she was nine years old her father passed away and she was raised by her single mother, Imelda, with six siblings. She grew up with limited resources and as the eldest child started working at a restaurant to help her family. She quickly learned how to make challenges into opportunities. Eleanor's introduction to civic engagement and community organizing was through her mother's involvement in local Filipino associations supporting new immigrants and promoting business entrepreneurship. Her advocacy work continued in middle and high school and throughout college as a mentor promoting educational and political campaigns for awareness of issues in the Asian Pacific Islander communities and for student and youth leadership development; and

WHEREAS, District 6 is honoring **Midori Tabata** who has been a resident of Oakland City Council District 6 since 1987 where she and her husband purchased their home because of its culture and diversity. She became a bike and pedestrian advocate through casual recreational biking, especially with the Oakland Yellowjackets, who took great pride in riding throughout the City, including East Oakland. Midori was appointed to the Alameda Transportation Commission BPAC then in 2014 the Oakland Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission (BPAC). She chaired both the Alameda CTC and BPAC Commission. Midori successfully recruited and engaged residents of East Oakland to join the BPAC and other groups; she worked with the community and advocated in support of the Laurel Access to Mills and Maxwell Park and Seminary (LAMMPS) projects to improve safety for walkers and riders from High Street to Seminary Avenue via MacArthur; Midori also worked with a neighborhood group to ensure the Leona Quarry development had sufficient storm water drainage capacity; She has worked with the City and community to mitigate traffic issues with the Oak Knoll Development and the Zoo. Midori continues to advocate for her community by working to ensure District 6 obtains amenities and services that other parts of the city receive; and

WHEREAS, District 7 is honoring **Shelley Hara** who was born and raised in Oakland and is the General Manager at Metropolitan Golf Links. Shelley has been in the golf business for 16 years and managed other public courses in the Bay Area before joining the CourseCo golf management team at Metropolitan. In the past seven years at Metropolitan, Shelley has worked with her team to improve course conditions, host more community activities and programs, and provide affordable golf, weddings, and banquets. One of Shelley's biggest accomplishments thus far at Metropolitan has been to work with Councilmember Reid and the Parks and Recreation department to raise over $150,000 for all the junior golf programs in Oakland through an annual fundraiser golf tournament; and

WHEREAS, At-Large District is honoring **Rick da Silva**, President of the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, a Board Member for Girls, Inc. of Alameda County, and a Partner at LOH Realty and Wellington Property Company. Rick has been an advocate for Chinatown for many years. Rick embodies what it means to keep Oakland local and to invest in our future. Rick is a son of Asian immigrant parents and he and his wife, Christie, are raising their two children in our community; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Libby Schaaf is honoring **Francis Calpotura**, founder and Director of Transnational Institute of Grassroots Research and Action (TIGRA). With over 30 years of experience working as a community organizer, trainer, administrator, and campaigner, Francis is well known in the API and immigrant communities as a bold innovator when it comes to community engagement and racial equity collaboration. He has received numerous recognitions for his work in Oakland and the Philippines around immigrant rights and economic justice; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month offers Oakland residents an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions and history of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans; now; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland commends Asian and Pacific Islander Americans for their notable accomplishments and contributions to our community and recognizes May 2019 as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, MAY 21 2019

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN — 8

NOES – 0

ABSENT – 0

ABSTENTION – 0

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California