



# Mayoral Proclamation

## Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

**WHEREAS,** May was established as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month by Congress in 1992; and

**WHEREAS,** Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month is a celebration of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** the month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, because the majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants; and

**WHEREAS,** despite generations of living and contributing to the fabric of American society, many Asian, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders continue to be treated as not belonging and face persistent racism and stereotyping; and

**WHEREAS,** since 9/11, South Asian Americans, especially those who are Muslim, Hindu or Sikh, often face senseless violence and harassment due to the color of their skin or the tenets of their faith; and more recently since the COVID-19 pandemic, Asians in general, particularly women and the elderly, have faced anti-Asian violence; and

**WHEREAS,** May is a month to reflect on the rich diversity of the Asian Pacific community and the contributions Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have made to our culture and civic life.

**Now, therefore, I, Kate Stewart, Mayor of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland,** hereby proclaim May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in Takoma Park.

**Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.**

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**Kate Stewart**  
**Mayor**