



Mayoral Proclamation

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month - May 2022

WHEREAS, the month of May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, established by a joint congressional resolution in 1978. The first 10 days of May were chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a month-long celebration, now known as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 475,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders reside in Maryland and 182,245 reside in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, Takoma Park recognizes the innumerable contributions, vibrant cultures, and rich heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and despite the strength and successes by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, there has been a staggering rise in bullying, discrimination, and hate crimes against the AAPI community during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, during this month, our community should recommit to promoting equity and acceptance for the AAPI community, stand up against discrimination and hatred, and ensure that our City is a welcoming and inclusive place for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kate Stewart, Mayor of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, do hereby proclaim May 2022 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in Takoma Park.

Dated this 18th day of May, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Stewart", is written over a horizontal line.

**Kate Stewart
Mayor**