

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2023

RECOGNIZING the month of May 2023 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (“AANHPI”) Heritage Month, we pay tribute to the significant contributions, accomplishments, and leadership of generations of AANHPI individuals to this country and the state of Ohio for more than 200 years; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was selected for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the vast diversity of languages, religions, and cultural traditions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders; and

WHEREAS, we stand in solidarity with the AANHPI community as we work to dismantle the systems that contributed to our history of discrimination and ongoing inequity towards individuals of Asian descent since our country’s earliest days, during the COVID-19 pandemic, and today; and

WHEREAS, we honor the leadership and legacies of Asian American and Pacific Islanders in Cincinnati such as Bobby Balena, the first Major League Baseball player of Filipino descent who played for the Cincinnati Reds in 1956; Takeshi “Ben” Yamaguchi and Yoshio Shimuzu, who were detained in internment camps in the 1940s and later started Soya Food Products, a tofu company in Price Hill; and Nghiep Ho, who moved to the U.S. from Vietnam with his parents in 1976 and whose parents founded Saigon Market the same year, which Mr. Ho still owns and operates to this day at Findlay Market; and

WHEREAS, we continue to celebrate the diversity and influence of AANHPI culture, organizations, businesses, and communities as we make Cincinnati a more diverse, thriving, and welcoming city for all; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize the month of May 2023 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and a copy be provided to the Asian American Cultural Association of Cincinnati by the Office of Mayor Pureval.

Passed: _____, 2023

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Mayor Aftab Pureval