

# A Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is a month to celebrate and pay tribute to the contributions of Asian/Pacific Islanders Americans to American history, society and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill in June of 1977. On March 28, 1979 President Carter issued Presidential Proclamation 4650, proclaiming the week beginning on May 4, 1979, as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. On May 7, 1990, President George H.W. Bush designated the entire month of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month by Presidential Proclamation and in October of 1992, Congress made the month permanent by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of May was selected as it honors the immigration of the first Japanese residents to the United States in 1843. Additionally, May also marks the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, constructed by the labor of mostly Chinese immigrants; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders comprise many ethnicities and languages, and their many achievements embody the American experience; and

**WHEREAS**, the impacts of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on American history and culture are numerous and wide-ranging, from their valorous service in our armed forces to contributions in the fields of business, education, agriculture, health, and technology. Yet, their history in America is marked by a struggle for freedom, equality, and justice as they continue to overcome adversity; and the City of Malden acknowledges the work of AAPI organizations in Malden working every day to advance rights and needs of AAPI folks such as the Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition (GMAACC), Chinese Culture Connection (CCC), Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC), and South Cove Community Health Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders population is 26% of Malden's population; and

**WHEREAS**, with increasing rates of anti-Asian harassment and violence across the country, especially in the wake of COVID-19, it is even more imperative than ever that we recognize the tradition of leadership, resilience and courage shown by AAPI communities and recommit ourselves to promoting equity and tolerance, stand up against discrimination and hatred, and ensure that our City is a welcoming and inclusive place for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved** that I, Gary Christenson, Mayor do hereby proclaim that the month of **May** be recognized as **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month** in the City of Malden.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the City of Malden this 1st day of May in the year two thousand twenty-two to be affixed.

  
GARY CHRISTENSON, Mayor

