

**RESOLUTION OF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF
CANTON, MICHIGAN**

Resolution to declare May 2021 as Asian American and Pacific Islanders Month in Canton Township

Whereas in 1977, Congress introduced a House resolution to proclaim the first 10 days of May as Asian Pacific Heritage Week, a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States;

Whereas in October 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution designating this as an annual celebration, which we now know as Asian Pacific Heritage Week;

Whereas in 1990, May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States, which was in May 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, in which the majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants;

Whereas in 1990 Congress voted to expand Asian Pacific Heritage from a week to a month-long celebration and in May 1992, the month of May was permanently designated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month;

Whereas studies have found that the academic needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander students are frequently overlooked;

Whereas understanding Asian and Pacific Islander history is an important part of celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have endured and overcome hardship and heartache. In the earliest years of their immigration, tens of thousands of Gold Rush pioneers, coal miners, transcontinental railroad builders, as well as farm and orchard laborers, were subject to unjust working conditions, prejudice, discrimination, and opportunity-limiting laws like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the Immigration Act of 1924 and then later the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II;

Whereas even in the face of discrimination and hate, generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have helped make this country what it is today;

Whereas racially motivated discrimination and harassment is at a high with a national and local spike in hate crimes against the AAPI community, especially targeting its Muslim, South Asian, and Southeast Asian members;

Whereas the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

Whereas the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects; now, therefore be it,

Resolved, that the Canton Township Board of Trustees strongly encourages our community to observe, recognize, and celebrate the culture, heritage, and contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders to our nation, state and our township and hereby declare May 2021 Asian American Pacific Islander Month in Canton Township.