



**PROCLAMATION HONORING ASIAN AMERICAN
and PACIFIC ISLANDER (AAPI) HERITAGE MONTH
MAY 2023**

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month is an annual celebration that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions of individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent to the United States. The AAPI umbrella term includes cultures from the entire Asian continent—including East, Southeast and South Asia—and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. As of 2019, there were about 22.9 million people of Asian or Pacific Islander descent in the United States. According to the Pew Research Center, AAPI people are a diverse and growing population that make up about 7 percent of the total U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, the American story as we know it would be impossible without the strength, contributions, and legacies of AAPIs who have helped build and unite this country in each successive generation. From laying railroad tracks, tilling fields, and starting businesses, to caring for our loved ones and honorably serving our Nation in uniform, AAPI communities are deeply rooted in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make our Nation more vibrant through diversity of cultures, languages, and religions. There is no single story of the AAPI experience, but rather a diversity of contributions that enrich our culture and communities; and

WHEREAS, present-day inequities faced by AAPI communities are rooted in our Nation's history of exclusion, discrimination, racism, and xenophobia against Asian Americans. Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have endured a long history of injustice — including the Page Act of 1875, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the incarceration of Japanese American citizens during World War II; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and honor the many ways that AAPI people have enriched the fabric of our society while also rededicating ourselves to advance inclusion, belonging, and acceptance for all AAPI communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of West St. Paul is proud to honor the history and contributions of AAPI people in our community and throughout our state and our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor David J. Napier, and members of the City Council of the City of West St. Paul do recognize and hereby proclaim May 2023 as:

**ASIAN AMERICAN and PACIFIC ISLANDER (AAPI)
HERITAGE MONTH**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of West St Paul, Minnesota, to be affixed on this 8th day of May 2023.

David J. Napier, Mayor