



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 21-3158, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MAY AS ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, the month of May commemorates the rich and diverse culture of Asian American Pacific Islanders, who have enriched America's history and were instrumental in its future success; and

WHEREAS, on October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution designating the annual celebration of Asian/Pacific Heritage Week during the first 10 days of May; in May 1990, the holiday was further expanded when Congress designated May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, the more than 300,000 Asian American residents of Cook County have contributed significantly to the development of our neighborhoods and cities; and

WHEREAS, Asian, along with Irish immigrants and African Americans among others, constructed and operated the transcontinental railroads that passed through Cook County and provided the basis for our county's economic strength as a transportation center; and

WHEREAS, Cook County is home to Asian American veterans who fought heroically for our nation through many of her conflicts in the 20th century, including Filipinos who, alongside soldiers from Maywood Illinois, survived the Bataan Death March in the Philippines during World War II, and Japanese Americans of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Teams who served our nation with the highest military honors despite being designated for internment in American concentration camps on the west coast; and

WHEREAS, This year's commemoration of Asian Pacific American heritage comes at a fraught and vexing moment in which people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent have experienced a resurgence of racism, prejudice, and physical violence spurred by hate; and

WHEREAS, Across 16 of America's largest cities and counties, there was a 164% increase in anti-Asian hate crime reports to police in the first quarter of 2021; and

WHEREAS, Despite these attacks, both historic and contemporary, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have shown resilience, demonstrated by the vibrant communities they have built and the myriad contributions they have made throughout American society; and

WHEREAS, Asian American Heritage Month provides Cook County the opportunity to restate its firm stand against any and all discrimination on the basis of race, creed, or national origin of Cook County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the County of Cook is proud to recognize the leadership and contributions of Asian Pacific Americans throughout our history; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, along with the entire Board of Commissioners, do hereby recognize May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, in recognition of the contributions made to our economy and culture by Asian Pacific Americans, and in tribute to all Asian Pacific Americans who call Cook County home.

