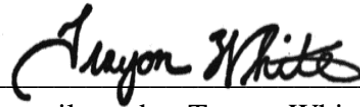



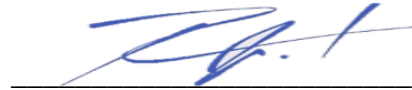
1 

2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto



Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

3
4 
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6 Councilmember Zachary Parker



Councilmember Robert White, Jr.

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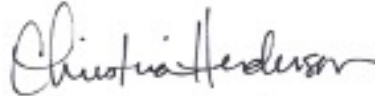
10 Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Matthew Frumin

11
12 
13

14 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie



Councilmember Christina Henderson

15
16
17
18
19 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

20
21 _____
22
23
24 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
25
26
27 _____

28 To celebrate the achievements, contributions, and diversity of Asian American and Pacific
29 Islander communities and declare May 2024 as Asian American and Pacific Islander
30 Heritage Month in the District of Columbia.

31
32 WHEREAS, in 1978 Congress passed a joint resolution and President Jimmy Carter
33 signed the resolution proclaiming the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week,
34 and in 1990, Congress passed, and President George H. W. Bush signed a bill extending
35 Asian American Heritage Week to the full month of May and the name evolved thereafter;
36

37
38 WHEREAS, May was selected to commemorate Asian American and Pacific Islanders
39 because May 7, 1843, is the anniversary of the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the
40 United States, and May 10, 1869, marks the initiation of the First Transcontinental Railroad 40
41 project, which was completed using Chinese labor;

42 WHEREAS, Asia and the Pacific Islands includes over 30 countries and many cultures

43 within those countries, including populations speaking over 3,000 different languages, and the
44 District of Columbia is home to 30,000 people who descend from these two regions;

45
46 WHEREAS, the immense diversity inherent in the peoples categorized by the broad
47 term of Asian American and Pacific Islander presents difficulty for these groups to come
48 together and advocate for their diverse interests, leaving them all significantly
49 underrepresented in government, their needs overlooked, and their populations underserved;

50
51 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is home to embassies of Asian and Pacific
52 Island countries, providing a tie between Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the
53 homeland of their ancestral cultures;

54
55 WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders continue to make invaluable
56 contributions to all aspects of American society, including science, technology, business,
57 education, arts, and public service, enriching the cultural tapestry of the District of
58 Columbia and inspiring future generations to pursue their dreams;

59
60 WHEREAS, in the District of Columbia, Chinatown was first established in the
61 1880s along Pennsylvania Avenue between 4 ½ Street and 7th Street NW, and as residency
62 in Chinatown expanded, so did mutual aid organizations and associations to help the
63 community flourish into a bustling economic quarter, including stores, restaurants,
64 churches, temples and residences, and was later moved due to city redevelopment, to its
65 current location along H Street NW;

66
67 WHEREAS, the annual Cherry Blossom festival in the District of Columbia is a
68 springtime activity that commemorates the 1912 gift of Japanese cherry trees from the Mayor
69 of Tokyo to the District of Columbia.;

70
71 WHEREAS, this May, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders celebrate Asian
72 American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with a Vice President of Asian descent in
73 office, a first for the community and a ray of hope for further inclusion and appreciation of
74 Asian American and Pacific Islanders going forward;

75
76 WHEREAS; Asian American and Pacific Islanders have made many outstanding
77 cultural contributions to the District of Columbia through vibrant art, music, theater, film,
78 language, and food;

79
80 WHEREAS; the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander cultural centers,
81 learning centers, and houses of worship serve residents and visitors alike and irreplaceably
82 enrich the community;

83
84 WHEREAS; the many Asian American and Pacific Islander-owned businesses
85 throughout the District of Columbia provide critical services and economic support for their
86 communities;

87
88 WHEREAS, established in 1987, the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander

89 Affairs serves as a liaison to the District’s Asian American and Pacific Islanders and promotes
90 and engages these communities to improve access to services and support the unique needs of
91 the communities it serves.

92
93 **RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,** That this
94 resolution may be cited as the “Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
95 Recognition Resolution of 2024”.

96
97 **Sec. 2.** The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the many
98 contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, celebrates the rich
99 cultural heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, stands against racially motivated
100 crimes and acts of hate targeted at this community, and designates May 2024 as Asian American
101 and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the District of Columbia.

102
103 **Sec. 3.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
104 the District of Columbia Register.