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Approved as to Form and Legality

City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 88635 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE SHENG THAO AND
COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS

**RESOLUTION IN CELEBRATION OF MAY 2021 AS ASIAN AMERICAN
AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH AND HONORING THE
ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER FOR
PROVIDING UNDERSERVED IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE
COMMUNITIES CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY ACCESSIBLE
COVID-19 OUTREACH, TESTING, AND VACCINATIONS**

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have made essential and enduring contributions to the history of Oakland, California, and the nation, helping to build, defend, and strengthen our nation – as farmworkers and railroad laborers, entrepreneurs and scientists, soldiers public sector workers, health professionals, community activists and leaders of government; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have endured hardships, including unjust working conditions, prejudice, and discrimination in some of the darkest times in our country's history, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, naturalized citizenship ineligibility, the Alien Land Law, anti-miscegenation laws, and Japanese interment; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans continue to cultivate and advance innovative knowledge, economic growth and unique cultural vitality in the fields of art, fashion, business, technology, medicine, science, education, government, law, humanities, sports, and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islanders Americans have led and joined a long legacy of activism and organizing in the United States in the movements for civil rights, immigrants' rights, women's rights, workers' rights, LGBTQ rights, racial justice, and environmental justice, much of which took root in Oakland and the surrounding Bay Area during the 1960s and continues today; and

WHEREAS, Oakland is home to nearly 70,000 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, and Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are one of the fastest growing ethnic populations in California and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans comprise more than 17 percent of Oakland's population and represent diverse ancestries that include, but are not limited to, Asian Indian, Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian, Chamorro, Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Iu-Mien, Iwo Jiman, Guamanian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Maldivian, Mongolian, Nepalese, Native Hawaiian, Vietnamese, Okinawan, Pakistani, Samoan, Singaporean Siri Lankan, Thai, Tongan, and other Pacific Islander; and

WHEREAS, there are many challenges that predominantly Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander members of the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander American community are facing, including higher rates of poverty, incarceration, health disparities, and limited English proficiency; and

WHEREAS, Asian Health Services was founded in 1974 in Oakland Chinatown as a community health center, which is a community-driven, non-profit clinic located in medically underserved areas or serving populations that are medically underserved, with a mission to provide affordable, comprehensive primary care to all, and provides health, social, and advocacy services regardless of income, insurance status, immigration status, language or culture; and

WHEREAS, Asian Health Services focuses on "whole patient health", providing more than primary care services, including mental health, case management, nutrition, and dental care to more than 50,000 patients; and

WHEREAS, Asian Health Services provides services in English, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Mien, Lao, Mongolian, Karen, Karenni, Arabic, ASL, and Burmese; and

WHEREAS, Asian Health Services has been nationally recognized for its leadership in culturally competent and linguistically accessible healthcare services, including in 2019 when it was named a National Quality Leader in Diabetes Health and received the Gold Award as Health Center Quality Leader from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the quality of comprehensive and holistic care that its staff provide to patients in Oakland and the broader community in fourteen languages; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Asian Health Services has provided vital services to its patient community, including COVID-19 community testing, contract tracing and vaccinations, and to date has provided nearly 37,000 COVID tests, assisted with 2,000 COVID cases, and provided 20,000 vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, Asian Health Services has provided COVID-19 testing and vaccination services in Madison Square Park in Chinatown and Clinton Park in Eastlake/Little Saigon, two City of Oakland parks that have been historically under resourced, thereby playing an important role in activating important public park space in underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, the federal government and the State of California officially designate May as “Asian Pacific American Heritage Month”; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month offers Oakland residents an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, challenges, and history of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council commends Asian Health Services for making important contributions to the City of Oakland, including providing underserved immigrant and refugee communities with critical, high quality, culturally and linguistically accessible COVID-19 outreach, testing, and vaccinations in Chinatown and Eastlake during the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council recognizes May 2021 as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month and celebrates the important contributions by members of the diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

MAY 18 2021

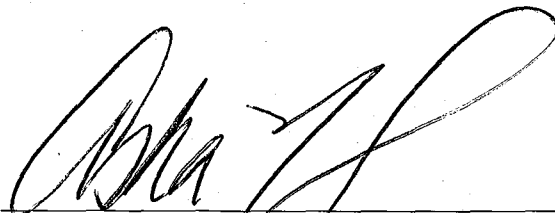
AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS **8**

NOES - **0**

ABSENT - **0**

ABSTENTION - **0**

ATTEST:



ASHA REED

City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California