

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, in May, the **Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month** is celebrated to provide an opportunity to recognize and honor the achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the contributions they have made and continue to make to our nation's history, culture, achievements, growth, and success; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was designated as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI) to commemorate May 7, 1843, when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and to recognize May 10, 1869, when the driving of the Golden Spike marked the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad, which was achieved utilizing Chinese labor; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islander citizens have greatly influenced the development of the United States, the state of Florida and the Tampa Bay area community by sharing their rich heritage and diverse culture, and by their generous philanthropy and service, and through their many contributions including in all facets of industry, education, health, science, social and public services, entrepreneurship, community leadership, the arts, and more; and

WHEREAS, founded in 2022, the City of Tampa Mayor's Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council (MAAPI Council) was established to advise the Mayor and Tampa City Council on issues affecting the AAPI community, to promote and celebrate the AAPI culture and heritage, and to advocate for policies that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, and it further seeks to foster greater communication and collaboration between the City of Tampa and AAPI community, and to serve as a resource for AAPI residents and organizations in the Tampa Bay area, and the council consists of community organizations, residents, and businesses representing more than sixteen countries in Asia and the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, during Asian American Pacific Islander Month, the MAAPI Council is sponsoring the **2023 Tampa Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Festival** on Saturday, May 13, 2023, held at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, and the special event features the celebration of various Asian and Pacific Islander cultures including performances, food vendors and trucks, retail items, and exhibits.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2023, as

“ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in thanking the Asian American and Pacific Islander community for its many contributions to our city, state, and nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of May, 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor