



Port of Tacoma

One Sitcum Way - Tacoma, WA 98421

Proclamation 2023-03-PT

WHEREAS, the Port of Tacoma has adopted a Diversity and Inclusion Policy which declares the Port respects and values the rich diversity of its employees, customers, contractors and stakeholders and that it is committed to a work environment that is inclusive and values diverse thought and expression in pursuit of the organization's mission and is committed to provide a workplace environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and harassment; and

WHEREAS, Port of Tacoma Resolution 2020-06 identifies diversity, equity, and inclusion as core values that the Port of Tacoma shall incorporate into its Strategic Plan and into Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Port of Tacoma Resolution 2020-06 adopts the following guiding principles as the basis for the Port of Tacoma's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives: undoing and understanding the history of racism, embracing differences, and developing leadership; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2021, the Port of Tacoma Commission approved a new strategic plan, which contained strategies calling on the Port to integrate the values of diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as health and safety, into the Port's culture and decision-making framework; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage in the United States was celebrated beginning in 1978 and was made into a month-long event in 1992; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was chosen as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese citizen, Nakahama Manjiro, to the United States on May 7, 1843, but also the anniversary of the May 10, 1869 completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad, built with the back-breaking labor of nearly 20,000 Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that enrich our history, society and culture, we must also acknowledge a darker aspect of the AAPI experience in America - structural discrimination, prejudice and injustice that most recently manifested itself in racist attacks on Asian Americans related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islanders have distinguished themselves as leading researchers in science, medicine, and technology; innovative farmers and ranchers; distinguished lawyers, judges and government leaders; in the arts, literature, and sports; as war heroes who defended our

country from fascism; and peacetime healthcare heroes currently on the front lines of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, 8 percent of the population residing in the Port of Tacoma port district are of Asian American or Pacific Island descent; and

WHEREAS, today more than 20 million Asian American and Pacific Islanders live in the United States and through their actions, make America a more vibrant, prosperous, and secure nation.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Port of Tacoma recognizes May, 2023, as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and calls upon the people of Pierce County to recognize the achievements and many contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to our community, our nation and our world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the Port of Tacoma on this 4th day of May in the year two-thousand and twenty three.

Deanna Keller, President

John McCarthy, Secretary