

## **PROCLAMATION 2024-03-PT**

### **Recognizing Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month**

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE: OS-5 and OS-6**

**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-PT 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-PT 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

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**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; and as war heroes who defended our country from fascism; and

**WHEREAS**, eight 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE:**

The Port of Tacoma recognizes May 2024, 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 21<sup>st</sup> Day of May in the year two-thousand and twenty-four.

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Kristin Ang, President  
Port of Tacoma Commission

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Dick Marzano, Secretary  
Port of Tacoma Commission