

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, diversity is essential to the strength and vitality of King County; and

WHEREAS, people of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent have lived in the Pacific Northwest for generations and have helped shape our county's vibrant culture, economy, and identity; and

WHEREAS, the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community is diverse within itself, comprising over 49 ethnic groups, 100 languages and dialects, and many religions; and

WHEREAS, despite economic hardship, restrictive and exclusionary laws, pervasive racism, and attacks on civil rights, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have contributed to every major industry and profession in this region; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the United States elected Kamala Harris, the first person of Asian descent to serve as Vice President; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, in King County and across the nation, we have seen an increase in violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders due to the false belief they are responsible for spreading COVID-19, and it is incumbent on everyone to speak out against this hatred and stand in solidarity with our Asian American and Pacific Islander community; and

WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month commemorates two events that occurred during the month of May: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, by workers who were mostly Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated nationwide to learn more about and honor the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in American history;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, proclaim May 2022, as

## **Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

in King County and encourage all residents join in this celebration of our Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander neighbors.

DATED this seventeenth day of May, 2022.



Claudia Balducci, District Six, Council Chair



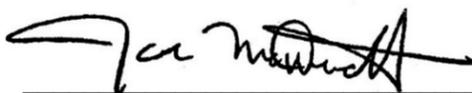
Rod Dembowski, District One



Sarah Perry, District Three



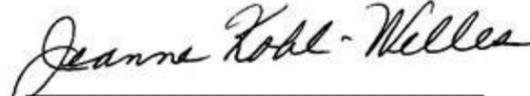
Dave Upthegrove, District Five, Council Vice Chair



Joe McDermott, District Eight



Girmay Zahilay, District Two, Council Vice Chair



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four



Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven



Reagan Dunn, District Nine