

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month is observed during the month of May to recognize the contributions and influence of AAPI persons as part of the whole history, culture, and achievements of the United States; and

WHEREAS, AAPI Heritage in the United States was celebrated at least as early as 1978 and was made into a month-long event in 1992; and

WHEREAS, During AAPI Heritage Month, we acknowledge that AAPI persons have lived and worked in the United States for more than 200 years, and have made significant contributions to all facets of the United States such as economy, culture, education, politics, arts, law enforcement, military, literature, science and technological developments despite institutional and systemic injustices designed to silence and cover up these achievements and contributions; and

WHEREAS, During AAPI Heritage Month, we acknowledge the additional determination, hard work, and perseverance AAPIs must put forth to be heard and seen and that these additional efforts are a result of inequitable institutional and systemic injustices; and

WHEREAS, Despite these contributions and leadership, the role of AAPI persons in the U.S. has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in education including areas such as math, science, literature, and American history; and

WHEREAS, We celebrate the achievements and contributions of AAPIs that enrich our history, society and culture, we must also acknowledge a darker aspect of the AAPI experience in America – including painful stereotypes, structural discrimination, injustices and periods of hate and violence. These actions come at the cost of the mental health of the AAPI community and distort the larger community's ability to recognize the humanity in us all; and

WHEREAS, AAPIs are among the fastest growing communities in Gainesville; and