

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May 2023

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage in the United States started in 1978 and seeks to honor and recognize the lives, histories, and contributions of AAPI community members.

AAPI is a broad term for many unique identities including approximately 50 ethnic groups speaking over 100 languages, with connections to Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Filipino, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Korean, Hawaiian, and other Asian and Pacific Islander ancestries. This community has endured a long history of injustice -- such as the Page Act of 1875, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Expatriation Act of 1907, the incarceration of Japanese American citizens during World War II, the Watsonville Riots of 1930, the murder of Vincent Chin, the mass shooting of Southeast Asian refugee children in 1989, and the targeting of South Asian Americans, especially those who are Muslim, Hindu, or Sikh, after the national tragedy of 9/11.

This month also observes the birthday of Vincent Chin, who was born on May 18 and brutally murdered in a hate crime in 1982. His murder fueled a national Asian American activist movement that continues to this day. We have seen a staggering rise in bullying, discrimination, and hate crimes against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Every day, kids of all ages suffer from being bullied in schools and online across the country. In the AAPI community, this problem is often compounded by cultural, religious, and linguistic barriers that can keep these youth from seeking and receiving help. And certain AAPI groups - including South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Micronesian, LGBTQ+, immigrant, and limited English proficient youth - are more likely to be the targets of bullying.

Acts of anti-Asian bias are wrong, they are un-American, and they must stop. The Boulder City Council will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with AAPI communities in condemning, denouncing, and preventing these acts of violence. We will continue to look for opportunities to heal together and fight against the racism and xenophobia that still exists in our communities.

We, the City Council of the City of Boulder, Colorado declare May 2023 as

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And encourage everyone in the community to support organizations and causes that uplift and empower AAPI communities; learn about their cultures and histories; buy from AAPI-owned businesses; amplify AAPI creators, educators, and activists; and celebrate the accomplishments and joy of this community.



Aaron Brockett, Mayor

