



NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, May 28

Eugene City Council declares May Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

The Eugene City Council at its May 26 meeting unanimously passed a resolution opposing all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19 and declaring May as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month has been nationally recognized since 1990, originally recognizing the first 10 days in May as signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1978.

"Pandemics have happened throughout our history. This is not the first one nor will it be the last, and viruses do not care about ethnicity," said Councilor Jennifer Yeh at the City Council meeting. "People of Asian descent in our community are residents, students, and visitors, and they all deserve to feel safe while they're here. This resolution makes it clear that the Eugene City Council is not ignorant of the bigotry that they face. We are also taking it a step further and asking the community to join us in recognizing and speaking out against it."

The resolution declares the month of May to be Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month and will actively acknowledge the designation by working with our community to celebrate all people of Asian descent, regardless of nationality and their diverse cultures, contributions and influences to Eugene.

The City Council encourages people to report all incidents of bias, regardless of how minor, online at www.eugene-or.gov/reporthate or by calling the Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement at 541-682-5177.

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