

2023 RES-047
RECOGNIZING MAY 2023 AS ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER DESI
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, the history of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and Desi Americans in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States and each May is dedicated to paying tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and Desi Americans who have enriched the history of the United States, Wisconsin, and Dane County; this year's theme is Advancing Leaders Through Collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was selected for Asian/Pacific Desi American Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Desi, a term to refer to those of South Asian descent, a pan-ethnic group of diverse people and communities rather than a nationally bounded category, is one of the fastest growing immigrant groups in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Asian-American/Pacific Islander and Desi community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2020 Census, there are approximately 24 million people of Asian-American, Pacific Islander and Desi descent in the United States, and, in Dane County, 6% of the population is of Asian-American, Pacific Islander, or Desi descent; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 Dane County employed 125 Asian/Pacific and Desi Americans and in 2023 145 Asian/Pacific and Desi Americans are employed by Dane County, an increase of 14% from 2022; the County of Dane values the diversity, knowledge, and experience these employees bring to their positions and the service they provide to all residents of Dane County; and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Brenda Yang, elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors in April of 2022, is the first person of Hmong heritage to be elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors with Hmong Heritage month proceeding Asian/Pacific Desi American Heritage Month in April; and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Patrick Miles is Nisei, second-generation Japanese-American, and is the first person of color and first Asian American to be elected Dane County Board Chair.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes May 2023 as Asian/Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisor

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2023.

Scott McDonell, Dane County Clerk