

WHEREAS, the month of May was chosen as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese citizen, Nakahama Manjiro, to the United States on May 7, 1843, but also the anniversary of the May 10, 1869 completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad, built with the back-breaking labor of nearly 20,000 Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) that enrich our history, society and culture, we must also acknowledge a darker aspect of the AAPI experience in America – structural discrimination, prejudice and injustice that most recently manifested itself in racist attacks on Asian Americans related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Asian American Pacific Islanders have distinguished themselves as leading researchers in science, medicine, and technology; innovative farmers and ranchers; distinguished lawyers, judges and government leaders; in the arts, literature, and sports; as war heroes who defended our country from fascism; and peacetime healthcare heroes currently on the front lines of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, today more than 20 million Asian American Pacific Islanders live in the United States and through their actions, make America a more vibrant, prosperous and secure nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Shelly Petrolia, Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission do hereby proclaim May as:

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

and encourage everyone to learn more about Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage, and work to combat racism.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 3rd day of May 2022.

**SHELLY PETROLIA
MAYOR**