

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HARRIS COUNTY ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMISSION RECOGNIZING ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH – MAY 2026**

**WHEREAS**, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month is recognized each May to honor the rich histories, diverse cultures, and enduring contributions of AANHPI communities across the United States, and to commemorate the generations whose resilience and leadership have shaped the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Harris County is home to a vibrant and growing AANHPI population whose presence reflects both the global diversity of these communities and their deep and longstanding roots in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Harris County Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Commission is to serve as an advisory body to the Harris County Commissioners Court in matters concerning disparities in health, economic opportunity, public safety, and other outcomes affecting Asian residents of Harris County; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of both the contributions and the needs of these communities, the Harris County Commissioners Court, through the leadership of Commissioner Rodney Ellis, established the County's first-ever AAPI Commission in 2025 to address disparities in health, economic outcomes, language access, and safety, and to ensure AANHPI voices are fully represented in shaping the County's future; and

**WHEREAS**, a deeper understanding of the AANHPI community reveals that it is not monolithic, but instead reflects extraordinary ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity, encompassing individuals and families with roots across East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Pacific Islands, and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, this diversity, while a source of strength, also underscores the importance of disaggregated data, as highlighted by the Kinder Institute for Urban Research Asian American Community Study, which finds that aggregate data can obscure significant disparities among distinct Asian American communities; and

**WHEREAS**, such disparities are evident in economic outcomes, as although 46 percent of Asian American households in the region report annual incomes exceeding \$100,000, approximately one-quarter report household incomes below \$50,000, with certain communities, including Vietnamese households, experiencing a pronounced bifurcation in income distribution—19 percent earning less than \$25,000 annually while 30 percent earn more than \$100,000—demonstrating substantial intra-community inequality; and

**WHEREAS**, even in the face of these disparities, AANHPI residents continue to make vital and far-reaching contributions to Harris County's economic growth, civic life, public service, small business development, healthcare, education, and cultural vitality; and

**WHEREAS**, at the AAPI Fest event held on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Alief-Amity Park in Harris County Precinct 4, the Harris County AAPI Commission surveyed attendees regarding the issues most important to their communities, and respondents identified healthcare access, education, civic engagement and voting, immigration resources, anti-Asian hate and discrimination, small business support, language access and translation services, youth programs, cultural preservation and arts, and public safety as top priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, at the same time, Harris County recognizes the importance of confronting and rejecting acts of anti-Asian hate, Islamophobia, and all forms of discrimination, and reaffirms its commitment to fostering a community grounded in dignity, belonging, and mutual respect;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Harris County Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission hereby celebrates May 2026 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission encourages all residents to recognize, learn from, and celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of AANHPI communities, while working collectively to advance equity, inclusion, and opportunity for all in Harris County.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that this Resolution be included in the minutes of the Commissioners Court this 30th day of April, 2026.