



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: About 23 million Americans proudly identify themselves to be of Asian, Native Hawaiian and/or other Pacific Island heritage; and

Whereas: Asians and Pacific Islanders form an American community of some 25 major ethnic groups, who speak over 15 different languages and belong to a wide variety of religions and cultures; and

Whereas: Approximately 36 percent of Bellevue's population is comprised of Asians or Pacific Islanders, among the largest percentages enjoyed by Washington cities; and

Whereas: There has been an outpouring of support from the region's Asian-American community in support of efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, including donations of personal protective equipment and food for essential workers; and

Whereas: Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have enriched our region's culture through excellence in the arts and design; and

Whereas: Asian and Pacific Islander American entrepreneurs strengthen our economy and our communities through their dedication and ingenuity, inspiring the next generation of American innovation by example; and

Whereas: May of 2020 marks the 42nd anniversary of the annual celebration that has become *Asian Pacific American Heritage Month*.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of **May 2020** as:

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

in Bellevue and encourage all citizens to celebrate the rich diversity of this community, to enjoy and appreciate the many contributions of the Asian and Pacific Islanders to our community, including their efforts to support COVID-19 relief, to reflect on the many challenges Asian and Pacific Islanders have faced in our past and in current times, and to join in looking forward to a future of hope and optimism.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue