

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

PROCLAMATION

- Whereas:*** More than 20 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, which speak over 15 different languages and belong to a wide variety of religions and cultures; and
- Whereas:*** Approximately 39.5 percent of Bellevue's population is comprised of Asians or Pacific Islanders, the largest percentage enjoyed by any city within Washington; and
- Whereas:*** Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have enriched our region's culture through excellence in the arts and design; and
- Whereas:*** May of 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of the annual celebration that has become *Asian Pacific American Heritage Month*.

Now, therefore, I, John Chelminiak, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of **May 2018** as:

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

in Bellevue, and encourage all citizens to celebrate the rich diversity of this community, to enjoy the work of the many Asian and Pacific Islander artists in our community, to reflect on the many challenges Asian and Pacific Islanders have faced in our past, and to join in looking forward to a future of hope and optimism.

John Chelminiak
Mayor