

Proclamation

***Recognizing May 2022 as Asian American
and Pacific Islander Heritage Month***



WHEREAS, since 1978 the United States has observed the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month to celebrate the many rich contributions that people of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry have made to our nation and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Asian and Pacific Islander community consists of approximately 50 ethnic groups speaking over 100 languages with over 1,000 different dialects in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that *We the People* remember that Americans' history and America's experience would not have been realized but for the contributions of people from all different races, cultures, genders, religions, economic classes, and lived experiences and further that we should both honor and give thanks for people and communities that have made America a better place and made and continue to make us a better people; and

WHEREAS, fueled by prejudice amplified by rhetoric related to COVID-19, some Americans have maligned and injured residents and fellow Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry beginning in 2020 and shamefully continuing into present day; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, our City Council and I signed a *Joint Statement Condemning and Standing Against Racism, Discrimination, and Hatred* and, without reservation, I outright condemn the prejudice, bigotry, political rhetoric, hate speech, and violence that have maligned and injured residents and fellow Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry today and through our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, *Imagine Monroe* aspires that Monroe is today and will be in infinite tomorrows - *a safe place, where everyone feels at home and everyone feels they belong*, including residents and fellow Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry; and

WHEREAS, we are a better people and a better community as a result of the lived experiences that residents and fellow Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry share with our diverse nation and it is important that we remember and honor that fact; and

WHEREAS, I am personally and profoundly grateful for the many people with diverse lived experiences, including Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry, that form the strong foundation and create the beauty within our local, state, national, and global communities.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, do hereby recognize the month of May 2022 as

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

AND, I call upon everyone to:

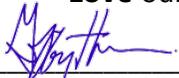
Listen to voices of Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry,

Honor the legacy and memory of their ancestors, who contributed to the communities we live in today and connected our country from sea to shining sea,

Acknowledge the injustices that have injured and continue to injure Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry both today and within our nation's history,

#StopAsianHate by condemning and confronting prejudice, bigotry, and violence against residents and fellow Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry, and

Love our neighbors by working to and realizing liberty and justice for all people.



Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor