



A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, The month of May was designated as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in 1992 to recognize the innumerable contributions, vibrant cultures and rich heritage of Asian Americans, native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and

WHEREAS, As some of the fastest-growing racial and ethnic groups in the nation, these communities represent a multitude of ethnicities, languages and experiences that enrich America, and

WHEREAS, Asians Americans and Pacific Islanders have lived and worked in Oregon for more than 200 years, contributing to the state's rich history, economy and culture, and

WHEREAS, Their history in Oregon is marked by a struggle for freedom, equity and justice, prevailing over the adversity of exclusion, persecution, incarceration and disparities, and

WHEREAS, These populations have helped advance Oregon's prosperity through their contributions to all fields of education, business, the arts, economic development, science and technology, and

WHEREAS, In Ashland, Chinese laborers built the railroad linking Southern Oregon to the rest of the country, and

WHEREAS, We have recognized that major contribution, in a small way, through the public art sculpture titled, *Golden Connections in Railroad Park*, and

WHEREAS, Hate crimes against Asians increased by nearly 400% in the last year and continue to threaten the safety of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and

WHEREAS, As we celebrate these populations, we must redouble our commitment to combating the surge of anti-Asian hate crimes, and

WHEREAS, These acts are wrong; they must stop.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tonya Graham, on behalf of the City of Ashland, do hereby acknowledge the month of May as a time to celebrate the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to our culture and collective history. I call upon the people of Ashland to observe this month with appropriate reflection and learning and make time to visit Railroad Park and Golden Spike. In Ashland we are Better Together.

Dated this 2nd day of May 2023

Tonya Graham, Mayor

Melissa Huhtala, City Recorder

