Proclamation
Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up an estimated 5.6% of the U.S. population and a 7.3% of the population of Albemarle County; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have flourished and succeeded in the County of Albemarle and are a vital part of our community's history, making important contributions to the cultural, civic, and economic life of the County; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the strength shown and successes achieved, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities face systemic barriers to economic justice, health equity, educational attainment, and personal safety, compounded by the stark gaps in Federal data, which too often fails to reflect the diversity of this community in terms of languages, ethnicities, and religions; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities have faced increasing harassment and hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly targeted towards women and elders of the community; and

WHEREAS, present-day inequities faced by Asian American and Pacific Islander communities are rooted in our nation's history of exclusion, discrimination, racism, and xenophobia -- including discrimination legalized through the Page Act of 1875, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the incarceration of Japanese American citizens during World War II, and the targeted surveillance of South Asian Americans, especially those who are Muslim, Hindu, or Sikh, after the national tragedy of 9/11.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors do hereby recognize and celebrate May 2022 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and encourage our community to observe this month by learning more about our collective history, including our darker chapters, so we can use lessons of the past to create a more inclusive and equitable future for us all.

Signed this 4th day of May 2022.

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Donna Price, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors