PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, May 19th is the birthday of Vincent Chin, who was brutally murdered in a hate crime in 1982, which fueled a national Asian American activist movement that continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, Every day youth of all ages and backgrounds suffer from being bullied in schools and online across the country, which is often compounded in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community because of cultural, religious, and linguistic barriers that can keep these youth from seeking and receiving help; and

WHEREAS, The City of Des Moines joins Act To Change in sharing one vision: A world where all youth, including within the AAPI community, have the opportunity to feel proud and supported in the development of their identity and sharing of their stories; and

WHEREAS, We must continue to empower students by advocating for systemic change and providing resources to promote healthy communities, while denouncing all incidents of hate - including surrounding the COVID-19 crisis, against the AAPI community; and

WHEREAS, The City of Des Moines, in partnership with Iowa Asian Alliance and participating community organizations, are committed to this important issue and encourages the public to foster dialogue, share resources, and learn more about what they can do to fight bullying and hate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITIZENS OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 18, 2020, AS:

AAPI DAY AGAINST BULLYING AND HATE

IN THE CITY OF DES MOINES, WITH BULLYING, DISCRIMINATION, AND HATE CRIMES ON THE RISE IT IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT WE STAND UP TO XENOPHOBIA AND RACISM AND TAKE ACTION TO HELP END BULLYING AND HATE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA TO BE AFFIXED THIS EIGHTEENTH DAY OF MAY TWO THOUSAND TWENTY.

T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR
CITY OF DES MOINES