PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The month of May is recognized nationally as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, May 18th is the birthday of Vincent Chin, who was brutally murdered in a hate crime in 1982, and his murder fueled a national Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) activist movement, which continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, Des Moines is home to nearly 17% of all AAPI community members living in Iowa, and over 6% of Des Moines residents are AAPI community members; and

WHEREAS, Each day youth of all ages and backgrounds suffer from being bullied in schools and online across the country, which is often compounded in the AAPI community by cultural, religious, and linguistic barriers that can keep youth from seeking and receiving help; and

WHEREAS, The City of Des Moines joins Act to Change, a national nonprofit dedicated to fighting bullying in the AAPI community, in sharing one vision – a world where all youth (including within the AAPI community) have the opportunity to grow up feeling proud and supported in the development of their identities and sharing of their stories.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE RESIDENTS OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 2021, AS:

"ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"

AND

MAY 18, 2021 AS

"AAPI DAY AGAINST BULLYING AND HATE"

AND ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSE HERITAGES AND CULTURES AND CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO CREATE A WORLD THAT IS MORE JUST, COMPASSIONATE AND EQUITABLE FOR ALL.

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

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