PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The month of May is recognized nationally as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month; 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, We honor the history and invaluable contributions of the AAPI communities in Des Moines; and

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

WHEREAS, Hateful incidents and bullying have worsened in the recent times during the COVID-19 pandemic, and these issues are often compounded by cultural, religious, and linguistic barriers; and

WHEREAS, In addition to observing the entire month of May, we also join 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 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 2022, AS:

"AAPI HERITAGE MONTH"
AND
MAY 18, 2022 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 TWENTY THIRD DAY OF MAY TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO.

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