



**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Recommendation Number: 20130422-005**

**Resolution Recognizing Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Supporting Full Inclusion for the Asian American Community**

**WHEREAS**, Asian Americans are a diverse community of people that trace their heritage to East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the South Asian subcontinent and have made their home in America; and

**WHEREAS**, from 2000 to 2010, the Asian American population was the fastest growing racial group in the United States, increasing by over 45%; and

**WHEREAS**, from 2000 to 2010, the Asian American population was also the fastest growing racial group in the City of Austin, increasing by 60%; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, Austin had the 10th highest share of Asian American population at 6.3% among large US cities; and

**WHEREAS**, Austin's Asian American population is estimated to have already grown to 6.9% or higher by 2012 and is predicted to exceed 8% by the end of the decade; and

**WHEREAS**, May has been designated since 1992 by the US Congress as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month and has been celebrated for many years in Austin and provided an occasion to recognize the history, culture, accomplishments, and contributions of the Asian American Pacific Islander community to the City of Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian Americans have historically encountered and still face discrimination in various forms, barriers to civic and political participation, difficulties accessing resources and programs in both the public and private sphere, and the challenges of being invisible, ignored, or forgotten.

**WHEREAS**, Asian Americans have contributed to Austin's culture, economy and welfare through achievements in a variety of fields including, without limitation, performing, visual and culinary arts; science and technology; construction, engineering and architecture; healthcare; education; real estate; law; and public safety.

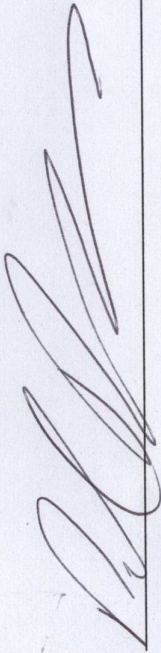


**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Austin Human Rights Commission urges the City of Austin to take the occasion of the month of May being AAPI Heritage Month to ensure that Asian Americans are fully included in the programs and policies of each of its departments and subdivisions, and that Asian Americans have an equal voice in the decisions that impact them as members of the larger Austin community.

Date of Approval: April 22, 2013

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 5-0 vote; Commissioner Lofton was absent.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Lofton', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.