



## **Proclamation in Honor of Asian American, Native Hawaiʻian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

**Whereas**, Asian American, Native Hawaiʻian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated in May each year in the United States, stemming from the establishment of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week in 1978 to coincide with historical milestones like the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869; and

**Whereas**, in 1990, President George H.W. Bush expanded this observance to May, officially designating it as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to recognize and celebrate the contributions, culture, and history of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians to American society; and

**Whereas**, this commemoration honors generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiʻians and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and society, fostering reflection on past challenges and discrimination while reaffirming our commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion; and

**Whereas**, Asian American, Native Hawaiʻian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month encourages all Americans to appreciate these communities' diverse cultures, traditions, and achievements. Events and activities nationwide promote awareness and understanding of their profound impact on our nation's identity and progress; and

**Whereas**, let us use this month as an opportunity for dialogue, learning, and fostering unity among all Americans, celebrating the shared history and future of our nation and promoting mutual respect, understanding, and appreciation across communities during Asian American, Native Hawaiʻian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month;

**Now, therefore**, I, Sara Loflin, on behalf of Mayor Justin Brooks, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2024 as Asian American, Native Hawaiʻian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the Town of Erie and I call all residents to celebrate and honor the contributions of all Asian Americans, Native Hawaiʻians, and Pacific Islanders while recognizing their contribution to assist us in always striving to be a better union.

**Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2024**

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**Justin Brooks, Mayor**

**Attest:**

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**Debbie Stamp, Town Clerk**