

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - 28**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA AFFIRMING THE MONTH
OF OCTOBER AS FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH**

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka recognizes that the Filipino community is the second-largest racial minority group in Alaska and continues to be a long-standing contributing community in Sitka; and

WHEREAS, after decades of advocacy by organizations like the Filipino American National Historical Society, in 2009, Congress designated October as Filipino American History Month, chosen to commemorate the historical moment on October 18, 1587, when the first Filipinos arrived in what is now Morro Bay, California; and

WHEREAS, documentation establishes the first Filipinos in Alaska arrived on a whaling ship in the year 1788. At one point referred to as "Alaskeros", particularly in the cannery sector, Filipinos had a broad industry presence in: whaling, fur trading, mining, fishing, processing, infrastructure development, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, our Filipino American neighbors are still an integral part of the economy; their work ethic finds them branching into wider ranging occupations, most notably the healthcare field where they have high representation as nurses, doctors, and other medical professions; and

WHEREAS, Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to the fine arts, music, dance, literature, business, journalism, education, science, technology, government, politics, fashion, and other fields in the United States that enrich the landscape of this place; and

WHEREAS, Filipino American servicemen and servicewomen have a longstanding history in the Armed Forces from the Civil War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, including the 25,000 Filipinos who fought under the United States flag during WWII to protect and defend this country; and

WHEREAS, the US Government didn't grant full citizenship and/or voting rights to Asian immigrants until McCarran-Walter Act of 1952; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models to instill in them the importance of education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the value of their legacy; more so, we recognize the importance of diversity and inclusion at all levels of society including our government structures because representation matters; and

WHEREAS, with their extensive history within our state, we know multiple generations of Filipino Americans have been born and settled roots here. We are beneficiaries that they have made this place their home including their economic, cultural, and societal impacts; and

WHEREAS, we recognize in 2021, Congress overwhelmingly passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act into Law after increasing documented crimes were targeted against the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. The City and Borough of Sitka asserts xenophobia and racism have no place here as Sitka is a safe and welcoming community for all; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka has a responsibility to oppose the systemic inequities and injustices that exists for communities negatively affected by colonization and oppression which perpetuates segregation, discrimination, and hardships such as high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month, October 2022 as a time of reflection and remembrance; and as a time to renew efforts toward the research and examination of history and culture in order to provide an opportunity for all people in the United States to learn with a reminder that Filipino American history is American history; and appreciate more about Filipino Americans and their historic and continued contributions to our city & borough, state, and nation.

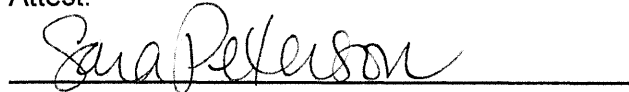
Thank you for all that you do for our community. *Salamat sa lahat ng ginagawa ninyo para sa ating komunidad.*

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, on this 25th day of October, 2022.



Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

Attest:



Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

1st and final reading: 10/25/22

Sponsors: Duncan/Eisenbeisz