

Good Morning, Valued Team Members:

I am very honored to take this time to recognize and call your attention to members of our shared community. As we are recognizing May 2021 as Mental Health Awareness Month, we are also commemorating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2021!!!

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated in May of each year. This year, such recognition is particularly important because of the impacts of COVID-19 and the violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Our nation is finally recognizing that we must call out violence, prejudice, and discrimination towards our AAPI through federal action – but there is still much to be done to combat such atrocities. These times are very important for us to recognize and celebrate the countless contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders throughout America's history while honoring the rich culture. One cannot look across the world, our nation, our state or Alameda County without seeing evidence of how AAPI individuals, families, communities, organizations, and advocates have made a positive difference.

Please join me and our Department in celebrating this month alongside and in partnership with the AAPI community!



**More about this time of year:**

*Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (as of 2009 , officially changed from Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month) is a period for the duration of month of May for recognizing the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.*

(Source: [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month - Wikipedia](#))

**To learn more Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, feel free to explore the following links –**

[Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: May 2021 \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/asiapacific/heritage-month)

[National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association \(naapimha.org\)](https://naapimha.org)