

# PROCLAMATION

*WHEREAS, diversity is essential to the strength and vitality of King County; and*

*WHEREAS, people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent have lived in the Pacific Northwest for generations and have helped shape our county's culture, economy, and identity; and*

*WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders compose the largest community of color in King County, playing a central role in making King County one of the most vibrant and culturally rich regions in the United States; and*

*WHEREAS, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is diverse within itself, comprising over 49 ethnic groups, 100 different languages and dialects, and a wide variety of religions; and*

*WHEREAS, despite economic hardship, restrictive and exclusionary laws, pervasive racism, and attacks on civil rights, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed to every major industry and profession in this region; and*

*WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, in King County and across the nation, we have seen an increase in violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders due to the false belief they are responsible for spreading COVID-19 and it is incumbent on everyone to speak out against this hate and stand in solidarity with our Asian American and Pacific Islander community; and*

*WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month was established in 1990 to commemorate two events that occurred during the month of May: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, by workers who were mostly Chinese immigrants; and*

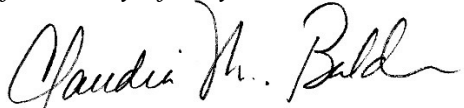
*WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated nationwide to honor the achievements and contributions of Asian Pacific Americans and it is an opportunity to educate ourselves on the personal sacrifices and accomplishments made by people of Asian Pacific Islander descent in American history;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, proclaim May 2021 as*

## **ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH**

*in King County and encourage all residents to join in this celebration of our Asian American and Pacific Islander neighbors.*

*DATED this fourth day of May, 2021.*



*Claudia Balducci, District Six, Council Chair*



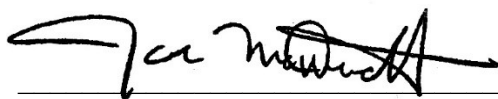
*Rod Dembowski, District One*



*Kathy Lambert, District Three*



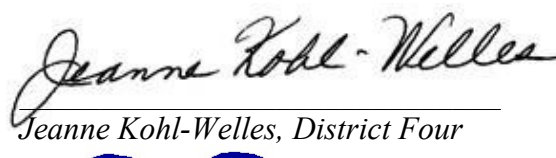
*Dave Upthegrove, District Five*



*Joe McDermott, District Eight, Council Vice Chair*




*Girmay Zahilay, District Two*



*Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four*



*Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven*



*Reagan Dunn, District Nine, Council Vice Chair*