



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

100 East Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Legislation Text

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RESOLUTION FOR BOARD MEETING OF MAY 6, 2021

RESOLUTION sponsored by the Board of Commissioners recognizing May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and honoring Albert Chan

WHEREAS, on March 28, 1979 President Jimmy Carter issued Presidential Proclamation 4650 designating the week beginning May 4, 1979 as Asian and Pacific American Heritage week, highlighting the dynamic role that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders play in our society with contributions in the field of science, arts, industry, government, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 1991 Public Law 102-42 was passed as a Joint Resolution of the United States Congress proclaiming May 1991 and May 1992 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. This Joint Resolution recognized May 7, 1843 as the date when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States and May 10, 1869 as the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States which could not have been accomplished without the valued dedication of Chinese innovators; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 1992, Public Law 102-450 was passed designating May of each year as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. With the passage of this Law, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, also known as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month, became a permanent symbol of the appreciation and gratitude of the United States towards Asian and Pacific Islander Americans; and

WHEREAS, Albert Chan is a teacher in the social studies department at Niles North and Niles West High Schools in Skokie, Illinois. In 2005, Mr. Chan introduced the idea of creating an Asian American studies class. Over 10 years later, in 2016, the school board for Niles North approved the class and Niles West approved it thereafter. As there are very few Asian American studies classes in the United States, Mr. Chan, in partnership with his colleague Pankaj Sharma, created the entire curriculum on which the class would be based; and

WHEREAS, a proud graduate of Niles North High School, Mr. Chan is passionate about the need for inclusion in education, especially since Asian Americans are approximately 40% of the student body population attending the Niles Township High Schools District. In creating an Asian American studies class, Mr. Chan sought to ensure that he created a forum in which students could learn about the remarkable history of Asian Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chan is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where he earned a degree in history and secondary education. He also attended Loyola University Chicago and Concordia University Chicago where he obtained degrees in education and educational leadership. Mr. Chan currently teaches Modern World History, ALCUSH-American Studies, and Asian American Studies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, on behalf of ourselves and our staff, do hereby recognize May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and honor Albert Chan for his courage, leadership, community involvement, and his persistence in ensuring that Asian American history be embraced in his schools and community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and that a copy of same, suitably engrossed, be presented to Albert Chan.

Dated: May 6, 2021