

CITY OF UNION CITY

PROCLAMATION



In Honor and Recognition of October 2019 as Filipino American History Month

WHEREAS, this is an appropriate time to promote and reflect on the richness of Filipino and Filipino American history and culture and to provide all Americans with the opportunity to learn and appreciate and honor the Filipino Americans and their historic and social contributions to the history of the USA; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to instill in our youth the importance of education, history and ethnicity in creating eminent role models, in establishing a proud cultural identity and producing exceptional citizens of this nation; and

WHEREAS, the earliest documented evidence of Filipinos in continental United States occurred in October 18, 1587, when mariners called “Luzones indios” under Spanish command landed in Morro Bay, California; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes the year 1763 as the date of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in Saint Malo, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, today, the Filipino American community is the second largest Asian American group in the United States, with an estimated population of 3,400,000 people; and

*WHEREAS, the Filipino American National Historical Society established **Filipino American History Month** in 1988 and subsequently, every October, several communities throughout the United States and its territories, have celebrated this occasion, not only to commemorate the anniversary of the presence of the first Filipinos in US soil and to observe its heritage, but also to recognize the social, intellectual and economic contributions of Filipinos and Filipino Americans in this country; and*

*WHEREAS, **Filipino American History Month** was first proclaimed by the 111th Congress of the United States in November 2009; and*

WHEREAS, Filipino American servicemen and servicewomen have a longstanding history of serving to protect and defend this country in the Armed Forces, from the Civil War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts; and

WHEREAS, our city of Union City has an estimated population of 14,000 Filipinos and Filipino Americans, representing over 20% of the City’s population, and is the 5th highest of this population in the state of California; and Filipino Americans have had a profound impact on California's history, values and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino Community played an important role in Union City's rich agricultural history, thereby helping to shape it's landscape; and

WHEREAS, immigrants from the Philippines and their families truly have enriched our nation and our city through their work in agriculture, their service in the Armed Forces, their contributions of skills and expertise as engineers, scientists, accountants, teachers, lawyers, nurses, and doctors, and their participation in public offices, civic affairs and community activities; and

WHEREAS, our city of Union City and New Haven Unified School District is the first in the nation to name a school after Filipino Farm Labor Leaders, Larry Itliong and Philip Vera Cruz.

*NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Union City, hereby issues this Proclamation in honor and recognition of October 2019, as **Filipino American History Month**.*

DATED: October 22, 2019

CAROL DUTRA-VERNACI, Mayor

GARY SINGH, Vice Mayor

EMILY DUNCAN, Councilmember

PAT GACOSCOS, Councilmember

JAIME PATIÑO, Councilmember