

Resolution Recognizing October as Filipino American History Month

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools supports diversity and inclusion in education for K-12 public schools; and

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

WHEREAS, today, the Filipino American community is the second largest Asian American group in the United States, with an estimated population of 4,200,000 people, third largest Asian American group in California with the earliest documented evidence of Filipinos in the continental United States; and

WHEREAS, Filipino American History Month began in 1992, done in recognition of the contribution, culture and heritage that Filipino Americans brought to the United States from the Philippines when they arrived in October of 1587; and

WHEREAS, every October, many 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 on 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 Americans, including the leadership of Larry Itliong (born October 25, 1913), who co-established the United Farm Workers (UFW), and Philip Vera Cruz (born December 25, 1905), who served as the second vice-president of the UFW, and were both active participants in the Delano Farmworkers Grape Strike and boycott in 1965, advocated for social justice in California and nationally in partnership with Hispanic/Latinx, Black/African American, Arab, and other Asian Americans; and

WHEREAS, efforts must continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture, so mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society, because the role of Filipino Americans and those of other people of color have been overlooked in the writings, teachings and learning of United States history; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative for Filipino American youths to have positive role models and to instill in them the importance of education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the values of their legacy; and

WHEREAS, California is home to over half of the Filipino population in the USA and the location of historic Filipino communities such as in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Stockton, Vallejo, Delano, San Diego and Salinas among others; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Santa Rosa City Schools recognize October 2026 as Filipino American History Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following vote of the Governing Board of Santa Rosa City Schools, County of Sonoma, State of California on August 26, 2026.

Sarah Jenkins, Clerk of the Board

Date