

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
MARYLAND

Proclamation

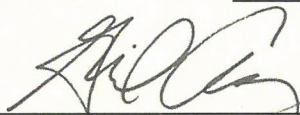
- WHEREAS,** Asian American adults have the highest attempted suicide rate when compared to other ethnic groups and Asian American women between the ages of 20-24 have the highest suicide death rate among all ethnic groups; and
- WHEREAS,** not only is there limited knowledge and awareness about mental health within Asian American communities, but mental health continues to be regarded with stigma and taboo, further preventing it from being discussed; and
- WHEREAS,** there is a dearth of culturally and linguistically competent mental health education programs and providers, which leads to both low utilization of mental health services and high drop-out rates among those who do seek treatment; and
- WHEREAS,** in response, the Asian Pacific American Officers Committee (APAOC) of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS), in collaboration with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) have established the Healthy Mind Initiative (HMI); and
- WHEREAS,** the two major aims of HMI are to improve mental health literacy in Asian American communities and to address the stigma and cultural barriers Asian American youth and communities face when seeking mental health care; and
- WHEREAS,** to advance these aims, HMI has developed and conducted trainings to educate USPHS officers to deliver key mental health messages, has equipped them with Mental Health First Aid certifications, and has supported trained officers in the over fourteen outreach events and community workshops they have hosted in Montgomery County to educate Asian Americans about mental health.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, hereby congratulates the

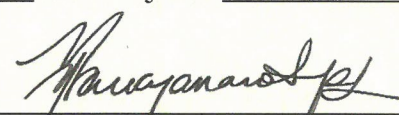
HEALTHY MIND INITIATIVE

for its commitment and collaborative spirit toward raising awareness and reducing stigma of mental health among Asian Americans.

Presented on this 14th day of May in the year 2019.



Gabe Albornoz
Councilmember



Nancy Navarro
Council President

