\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE – FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT, SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF LANCASTER (SAAL)\*\*\*

SAAL, South Asian Association of Lancaster, thanks the Board of Commissioners of Lancaster, PA – Ray D'Agostino, Chairman, Joshua G. Parsons, Vice Chairman and John B. Trescot, Commissioner for the continued support to Asian American communities by proclaiming of the month of May 2023 as the Asian American and Pacific Heritage Month, through recognizing the immigrants including the eminent early Asians from the 19th century to the recent South, East Asian and Pacific Islander Communities, the first large scale Asian festival celebrations and the culture promotional activities from SAAL, as among the forces that make Lancaster County and the America strong.

In particular, this is a historic moment for SAAL as it celebrates its 10 years of its mission to make a positive impact in our community through service and unity in diversity while promoting south Asian cultural heritage and inclusion through activities of mutual interest. Over these years, SAAL supported many community give-back and support events including Back to School Supplies, Race against Racism, Food Donations, Disaster relief efforts, Scholarships for High school students, to name a few, and takes pride in conducting the the COVID19 Vaccine clinics that administered over 18,000 doses to citizens of Lancaster and neighboring Counties including minority groups such as NAACP, Office of aging, behavioral health facilities and nursing homes.

I take pride in sharing that the recognition of SAAL at proclamation is a tribute to the services and contributions of its volunteers, members and office bearers. Such recognition of self-less contributions boost the spirit of SAAL in pursuit of its vision and mission to Lancaster community.