



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL**

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



**Press Release**  
**MAG-37-2024**

## **LOS ANGELES CITY CELEBRATES FILIPINO-AMERICANS AS FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH COMES TO A CLOSE**

**Los Angeles, 31 October 2024** – The City of Los Angeles celebrated its Filipino-American community in two consecutive events as October, and thus, the Filipino-American History Month (FAHM), drew to a close.

Held on Tuesday, 24 October 2024, Acting Head of Post Maria Alnee A. Gamble attended LA City's "Bayanihan Unity Celebration" which saw LA City Hall's façade lit up with the colors of the Philippine flag.

In the presence of many of the leading members of the Filipino-American community, LA City recognized and honored the contributions of outstanding Filipino-Americans/Angelenos, namely, Ms. Vicki Rollins, a registered nurse and CEO of Los Angeles Downtown Medical Center; Apl.de.ap, singer, rapper, Grammy-winner and philanthropist; Chef Lord Maynard Llera, 2024 James Beard Best Chef in California Awardee; and, the Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, a non-profit organization based in Historic Filipinotown and is dedicated towards empowering and promoting the well-being of young Filipino-Americans.

On Friday, 25 October 2024, the Los Angeles City Council presented an award of recognition to the Los Angeles Filipino-American City Employees Association (LAFACE) at the Los Angeles City Council Chamber.

Acting Head of Post (AHOP) Maria Alnee A. Gamble received the award on behalf of LAFACE and she congratulated the organization for representing Filipino identity and values – LAFACE has championed the economic, educational and cultural advancement of over 2,700 LA City Filipino employees for over forty years; further, LAFACE has also advocated for other minority groups employed by the City of Los Angeles.

AHOP Gamble also noted that she was accepting the recognition not only for LAFACE but also on behalf of the over 150,000 Filipino-American residents in LA whose economic and cultural contributions to the City of Los Angeles are often overlooked because Filipino-Americans have adapted and blended so well in their communities.

LA City's 2024 FAHM celebration was co-chaired by two Filipino-American LA City Hall officials, Board of Public Works Commissioner Susana Reyes and LA City Bureau of Street Lighting General Manager Miguel Sangalang.

For the years 2024-2026, LAFACE leadership is under the Presidency of Mrs. Lolita Mejia who serves as Management Analyst at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. LAFACE was established in 1982.

In October and November of 2009, the House and the Senate of the 111<sup>th</sup> United States Congress, respectively, passed a resolution officially recognizing October as Filipino American History Month. October was chosen to commemorate the first-ever recorded arrival of Filipinos in continental United States – when a group of Filipino sailors aboard a Spanish galleon landed in Morro Bay in California on 18 October 1587. **END**



Los Angeles City Hall lit up with colors of the Philippine flag.  
Photo from the FB page of LA City Commissioner of Board of Public Works Susana Reyes



Acting Head of Post Maria Alnee A. Gamble delivering her remarks before the presentation of the Award of Recognition for LAFACE at the Los Angeles City Council Chamber.





*Presentation of Award of Recognition at the Los Angeles City Council Chamber.*



*LA City Board of Public Works Commissioner Susan Reyes (3<sup>rd</sup> from left, first-line standing), Acting Head of Post Maria Alnee A. Gamble (fourth from left; first line- standing), LAFACE President Ms. Lollita Mejia (6<sup>th</sup> from left, first-line standing), Chef Lord Maynar Llera (7<sup>th</sup> from left, first-line standing), LA City Comptroller Mr. Kenneth Mejia (center, second-line standing), LA City Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez (3<sup>rd</sup> from left, second-line standing), together with members of LAFACE and other Fil-Am community leaders.*