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**Common Council Recognizes June 12, 2023 as the 125th Anniversary of Philippine Independence in the City of Albany Ahead of July 1 Celebrations**

**ALBANY, NY** – The Common Council on June 22 recognized June 12, 2023 as the 125th Anniversary of Philippine Independence in the City of Albany. Joined by Kalayaan 1521 Council President Sol Kapunan and his family, councilmembers honored the artistic, professional and political contributions of Filipino Americans in the City and across the Capital Region.

“Through the Filipino community’s dedication and countless ways of commitment, they have enhanced our cultural tapestry and fostered an environment of inclusivity and unity and love,” **Councilmember Gabriella Romero** said. “By recognizing the 125th anniversary of Philippine Independence Day, we not only honor the struggles and triumphs of the Filipino people but also celebrate this vibrant cultural heritage that they have brought to this wonderful City of Albany. Philippine Independence Day serves as a reminder of the unwavering human spirit and the power of unity and freedom.”

The Common Council’s resolution comes at a time of increased visibility for Filipino Americans in Albany. In a 2019 resolution, the Council voiced support for nurses organizing for a fair contract at Albany Medical Center. Filipino-American nurses were among those organizing, and in 2022—one year after securing the contract—members of Filipino-American community in Albany organized once more for the first annual Filipino Day in the City.

“The Filipino community knew and felt they had a place here, and that door was open because of those nurses,” **Council President Corey Ellis** said. “[Filipino Day] is something that shows our diversity in this city, and not just our city, but the Capital Region.”

This year’s Filipino Day celebrations will be held on Saturday, July 1. Community members are invited to join councilmembers at the Filipino Day parade, set to step off at 9 AM from the intersection of State Street and Willett Street. Celebrations will continue at the Washington Park parade grounds until 3 PM.

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