



DATE: April 21, 2020

CATEGORY: Items Initiated by Council

DEPT.: City Council

TITLE: **Adopt a Resolution Denouncing Xenophobia and Anti-Asian Sentiment Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Denouncing Xenophobia and Anti-Asian Sentiment Arising Due to Fears of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Affirming Its Commitment to the Well-Being and Safety of Asian-Pacific American Communities, to be read in title only, further reading waived (Attachment 1 to the Council report).

ANALYSIS

Since the December 2019 outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in Wuhan, China, the infection has grown to 2 million confirmed cases and over 120,000 deaths worldwide as of April 14, 2020. Incidents of discrimination, hate crimes, and microaggressions against Asian-Pacific Americans of all ethnicities are on the rise throughout the country as they are being blamed for the COVID-19 virus.

On March 19, 2020, San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department, Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), and the Asian Pacific Planning and Policy Council (A3PCON) launched an online reporting center to collect and track incidents of anti-Asian-American and Pacific Islander hate violence, harassment, discrimination, shunning, and child bullying in California and nationwide so that victims can share their stories. Since the launch of the online reporting, over 1,100 incidents of verbal harassment, shunning, and physical assault have been reported. Additionally, CAA reported that advocates found 300 news articles nationwide reporting attacks against Asian Americans during a roughly two-week period ending March 7, 2020.

The County of Santa Clara is one of the first minority-majority counties in the nation, and as such, Asians have been the largest racial group since 2014. Currently, Asians represent nearly 38 percent of the County's population. In Mountain View, Asians represent over 31 percent of the population. Moreover, one of the City Council's

current goals is to promote a community for all and preserve the City's cultural diversity. Therefore, it is important that the City stands in solidarity with the Asian-Pacific American communities to send a message that we care about them and encourage people to report incidents in an effort to prevent and stop discriminatory and hateful behavior. As a City, we stand united with all members of our community.

As a result, the City Council is asked to adopt this resolution in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian-Pacific Americans and in combating hate crimes targeting Asian-Pacific Americans.

FISCAL IMPACT – There is no fiscal impact.

ALTERNATIVE – Do not adopt the resolution.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

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MAK/LN/6/CAM
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Attachment: 1. Resolution