



MEMORANDUM

City Manager's Office

DATE: April 22, 2021

TO: Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Race, Equity, and Inclusion

FROM: Christina Gilmore, Assistant to the City Manager
Audrey Seymour Ramberg, Assistant City Manager/
Chief Operating Officer

VIA: Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager

SUBJECT: **Discuss Recent Efforts to Address Xenophobia and Anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Sentiment**

BACKGROUND

In June 2020, the City Council appointed a Council Subcommittee on Race, Equity, and Inclusion (REI Subcommittee) to guide the City's efforts to engage the community in meaningful dialogue and take action toward a vision of racial justice, equity, and enhanced public trust in law enforcement in Mountain View.

The REI Subcommittee held four meetings between June and November 2020 to receive updates, hear community input, and provide direction regarding the City's Race, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan focused on policing practices, policies, and accountability; celebration and recognition of community diversity; and a review of City operations and policies (Attachment 1). Meeting topics included: reviewing Mountain View Police Department's use of force and de-escalation policies; hiring a Ph.D. Research Fellow to analyze police contact data to inform police programs, practices, and policies; exploring alternative responses to mental health calls for service, including receiving a presentation from the County regarding the Mobile Crisis Response Team; receiving community input from listening sessions on local policing organized by the Human Relations Commission; establishing a Public Safety Advisory Board; and recommending use of a budget equity lens to assess impacts of budget proposals on people of color and low-income residents.

The County of Santa Clara is one of the first majority-minority counties in the nation, with Asians representing the largest racial group since 2014. Currently, Asians represent nearly 39 percent of the County's population and 32 percent of the population in Mountain View, where they are also the largest ethnic group.

Mountain View has had a long commitment to diversity and inclusivity. Since 1998, the City has provided City and community information to residents in four languages, including Mandarin. In 2017, the City Council adopted “Community for All” as one of its four Major Goals to stand against actions or policies that negatively impact the lives of our residents and promote strategies to protect vulnerable populations and preserve the City’s socioeconomic and cultural diversity. Since that time, a number of projects have been implemented in support of this goal.

The purpose of this report is to cover recent events related to the AAPI community, share information, and discuss local efforts to combat anti-AAPI sentiment.

DISCUSSION

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, anti-Asian rhetoric and hate crimes against members of the AAPI community have been on the rise across the United States. In a 2020-21 national report released by the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center, 3,795 incidents of discrimination against members of the AAPI community were reported from March 18, 2020 to February 8, 2021. In the Bay Area, more than 700 anti-Asian incidents were reported in 2020.

In April 2020, the City adopted a resolution denouncing Xenophobia and Anti-Asian Sentiment Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, affirming the City’s solidarity and commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian-Pacific Americans and in combating hate crimes targeting Asian-Pacific Americans.

On March 16, 2021, eight people, including six Asian immigrant women, were killed in Atlanta-area shootings. In Mountain View, an individual was arrested in connection with anti-Asian hate crimes in our City’s downtown last month.

Due to the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes, members of the AAPI community and elected officials in Mountain View and Santa Clara County, as well as at the State level, have initiated a range of actions to address anti-Asian American sentiment and xenophobia within our community.

A summary of recent efforts is below.

- A rally was held on April 11, 2021, organized by AAPI high school students from the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District with the support of Mayor Kamei and Councilmember Abe-Koga. The rally began at the Mountain View

Transit Center, from which Japanese Americans were processed, and shipped to internment camps during World War II, a reminder of a shameful period in national and local history. The rally continued on to the Mountain View Civic Center Plaza, where an estimated 500 people gathered to decry the recent increase in crimes and discrimination against the AAPI community. The event featured numerous speakers of all ages from the AAPI community and elected officials, including Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, State Assembly members Evan Low and Marc Berman, State Senator Josh Becker, Supervisors Otto Lee and Joe Simitian, in addition to Mayor Kamei and Councilmember Abe-Koga.

- On March 23, 2021, Supervisor Otto Lee presented a board referral to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to consider recommendations relating to a work plan and timeline regarding the implementation of a Countywide anti-hate community outreach and education campaign in response to the recent spike of anti-Asian hate crimes and violence (Attachment 2).
- In December 2020, the County created a Countywide hate crime task force to ensure State and Federal laws prohibiting hate crimes are enforced in the region, as well as creating school-based programming to help ameliorate violence resulting from prejudice. The City of Mountain View is represented on this task force by Councilmember Abe-Koga.
- The California State Legislature has introduced a number of bills during the 2021-22 session that would address race, equity, and inclusion, expand the definition of hate crimes and how they are prosecuted, and establish an Office of Racial Equity (Attachment 3).
- Nonprofit organizations like Hollaback!, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and others offer free virtual interactive harassment prevention and bystander intervention training to teach community allies ways to intervene effectively and appropriately as bystanders without compromising safety when witnessing harassment, discrimination, macroaggressions, and violence against individuals in the community.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Race, Equity, and Inclusion consider adding one or more items to the REI Action Plan related to addressing xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment, with possible options, including:

- Compile and share information with the community regarding local events to provide opportunities to raise awareness, demonstrate support, and provide feedback regarding xenophobia and anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander sentiment;
- Collaborate with nonprofit organizations to coordinate harassment prevention and bystander intervention trainings for Mountain View residents; or
- Organize a panel presentation by local AAPI small business proprietors that provides ideas for how to support local AAPI small businesses.

NEXT STEPS

For any selected item(s), staff will identify and work with partners as appropriate to plan and implement the Subcommittee's direction.

CG-ASR/2/MGR
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- Attachments:
1. Race, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan
 2. Anti-Hate Community Outreach and Education Campaign
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Referral
 3. Hate Crime Bills in the 2021-22 California State Legislature