CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW RESOLUTION NO. SERIES 2020

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

WHEREAS, Asian-Pacific American communities are suffering acts of discrimination, hate crimes, and microaggressions due to fears of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, 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 confirmed deaths worldwide, and in the United States, almost 600,000 cases have been reported as of April 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, such anti-Asian rhetoric and sentiment is inaccurate and stigmatizing, tends to incite fear and xenophobia, and may put Asian-Pacific Americans at risk of retaliation; and

WHEREAS, scientists have confirmed that the COVID-19 disease does not respect borders and is not caused by ethnicity, and the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors because they can fuel ethnic discrimination; and

WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 virus has spread, numerous Asian-Pacific Americans have reported experiencing microaggressions, racial profiling, hate incidents, and, in some cases, hate violence; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to quantify and combat hate crimes targeting Asian-Pacific Americans stemming from people's reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, two Bay Area groups, the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) and Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), created an online reporting center where people can fill out a form (currently available in English, traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, and Korean) to report the location and type of discrimination experienced and other details; and

WHEREAS, A3PCON and CAA plan to use the information reported to create targeted education and media campaigns, provide resources to those affected, and advocate for policies to curb racial targeting; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Clara County, one of the first minority-majority counties in the nation, Asians have been the largest racial group since 2014, and currently, Asians make up nearly 38 percent of the county's population; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Mountain View, Asians make up 31 percent of the City's population;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mountain View that the City Council denounces xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment. The City of Mountain View joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian-Pacific Americans and in combating hate crimes targeting Asian-Pacific Americans. The City remains committed to protecting residents and victims of hate.

MAK/LN/6/RESO 001-04-21-20r