



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER SHENG THAO AND COUNCILMEMBER NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION. 908
CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AS
RELATED TO COVID-19; REAFFIRMING OAKLAND'S PROTECTION
OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES; AND
RECOGNIZING MAY 2020 AS ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH.**

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, there are 3 million confirmed cases and over 200,000 confirmed deaths worldwide, and in the United States, 1,000,000 cases have been reported as of April 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, at a White House press conference with the Coronavirus Task Force on March 18, 2020, President Trump referred to the COVID-19 virus as the "Chinese Virus"; and

WHEREAS, such anti-Asian rhetoric and sentiment is inaccurate and stigmatizing, leads to xenophobia, and puts Asian-Pacific Americans at risk of retaliation; and

WHEREAS, the March 25, 2020 House Resolution 908 calls on all public officials to condemn and denounce anti-Asian sentiments in any form; and recommits U.S leadership to combat misinformation and discrimination that puts Americans at risk; and

WHEREAS, we know scientifically, COVID-19 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 [<http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/stop-aapi-hate/>]; 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, January 2020, the City of Oakland, was recognized as the second most ethnically diverse large city in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals make up at least 16 percent of the city’s population, nearly 70,000 individuals representing diverse ancestries that include, but are not limited to, Asian Indian, Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian, Chamorro, Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Iu-Mien, Iwo Jiman, Guamanian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Maldivian, Mongolian, Nepalese, Native Hawaiian, Vietnamese, Okinawan, Pakistani, Samoan, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Thai, Tongan, and other Pacific Islander; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals have strengthened our city and country through their leadership and service, as civil rights activists, public health professionals, small business owners, professors, political leaders, first responders, scientists and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Oakland’s Chinatown is celebrated and essential to the cultural fabric of our City

WHEREAS, the federal government and the State of California officially designate May as “Asian Pacific American Heritage Month”; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That by the City Council of the City of Oakland that the Oakland City Council supports House Resolution 908 in its entirety; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Oakland denounces xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiments of all forms including the Trump administration’s rhetoric regarding the COVID-19 virus; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland 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 and misinformation targeting Asian-Pacific Americans; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland remains committed to protecting residents and will prosecute and curb hate acts related to COVID-19; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland commends Asian and Pacific Islander Americans for their notable accomplishments and contributions to our community and recognizes May 2020 as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent to Representative Barbara Lee.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR,
THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California