


CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE SHENG THAO AND
COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING AND COMBATING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, AND INTOLERANCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

WHEREAS, 23 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for 7 percent of the population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in January 2020, the City of Oakland was recognized as the second most ethnically diverse large city in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Census recorded Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals as 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 Islanders; and

WHEREAS, over 2 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are working on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic in health care, law enforcement, first responders, transportation, supermarkets, and other service industries across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric related to COVID-19, such as the "Chinese Virus", "Wuhan Virus", and "Kung-flu" have perpetuated anti-Asian stigma; and

WHEREAS, such anti-Asian rhetoric and sentiment is inaccurate and stigmatizing, leads to xenophobia, and has resulted in Asian Americans being harassed, assaulted, and scapegoated for the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, racism and scapegoating toward Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals have persisted since the 19th century and contributed toward policies like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prohibited the immigration of Chinese laborers, and introduction

of the term “yellow peril”, which represented East Asians as dangerous and threatening to the United States; and

WHEREAS, racist policies continued into the 20th century with the Immigration Act of 1924 effectively banning all immigration from Asia; Executive Order 9066 in 1942 authorizing the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II; and others that have impacted Southeast Asian Americans, South Asians, Muslims, and Sikhs, among others; and

WHEREAS, since January 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of hate crimes and incidents against those of Asian descent across the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent report, there are nearly 3,000 reported cases of anti-Asian discrimination related to COVID–19 between March 19, 2020, and December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, anti-Asian discrimination and hate since the start of the COVID–19 outbreak has continued throughout the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, since the start of year 2021, there has been a surge in anti-Asian attacks against many elderly Asian Americans; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2021, an 84-year-old Thai man, Vicha Ratanapakdee, died from injuries sustained from an unprovoked assault while on his routine morning walk in San Francisco, California; and

WHEREAS, from January 2021 through March 2021, there were several attacks in and around Oakland Chinatown against Asian American seniors; these elderly victims were violently shoved to the ground, and one senior was fatally shot; and

WHEREAS, two senior victims, Mr. Pak Ho and Mr. Paul Chan, were active participants in the Lincoln Square Park community: Mr. Pak Ho was a regular participant with the Sunday morning Tai Chi, and Mr. Paul Chan actively volunteered many times a week with the Table Tennis program; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2021, six Asian women were among eight people who were tragically shot and killed in three Atlanta, Georgia-area spas, coming at a time when Asian American and Pacific Islander communities were already grappling with the traumatic violence against community members nationwide, fueled by the United States’ long history of white supremacy, systemic racism, and gender-based violence; and

WHEREAS, the tragic killings of Asian women drew attention to the ways anti-Asian sentiment in the United States operates along gender lines, with recent reports showing that 61% to 68% of the incidents of anti-Asian violence the news reported in 2020 had targeted or been committed against Asian women; and

WHEREAS, all members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community – no matter their background, the language they speak, or their religious beliefs – deserve to be treated with dignity and equality; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland condemns all forms of racism, xenophobia, misogyny, and white supremacy, that are at the core of violence against Black, immigrant, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian American and Pacific Islander communities throughout United States history and including now related to COVID-19; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland recognizes that the health and safety of all of its residents, no matter their background, must be the utmost priority; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland joins communities across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland is committed to combating all manifestations and expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, anti-Asian sentiment, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious intolerance by investigating incidents of hate crimes, harassment, bullying, and threats against Asian Americans and Pacific Islander communities relating to COVID-19; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland is committed to building a more inclusive, diverse, and tolerant society, by prioritizing language access and inclusivity in communication practices, and combating misinformation and discrimination that put Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders at risk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California