

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CYPRESS,
AND ACTING AS EX-OFFICIO GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE CYPRESS RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT, CONDEMNING
ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AS RELATED TO COVID-19.

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

WHEREAS, Orange County has the third largest Asian American population in the United States with 600,000 community members, and Cypress is home to over 17,000 Asian American and Pacific Islander residents; According to the Los Angeles Times the Asian American community has increased 41% in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance states that along with the Vietnamese community there are Korean, Chinese and Filipino groups who are usually too often overlooked and need support; and

WHEREAS, across the United States, Orange County has the third-highest number of Asian American owned businesses; These businesses produced \$20 billion dollars in revenue in 2007 and employ approximately 100,000 workers; and

WHEREAS, over two 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; and

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

WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian rhetoric has resulted in Asian Americans being harassed, assaulted, and scapegoated for the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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

WHEREAS, according to a recent report, nationally, there are nearly 3,000 reported cases of anti-Asian discrimination related to COVID-19 between March 19, 2020, and December 31, 2020; According to the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center, there were 3,795 incidents reported from March 19, 2020 to February 28, 2021. Sixty-eight percent was verbal harassment, 20% was shunning, 11% was physical abuse; and

WHEREAS, the OC Human Relations Commission found a 10 fold increase in hate incidences and crimes in 2020 against Asian Americans in Orange County, including an incident in Huntington Beach where an Asian American family had fliers posted on their home and vehicle that read, "You guys are Chinese Viruses" and "Get out of our country;" and

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

WHEREAS, since the start of 2021, there has been a surge in anti-Asian attacks targeting elderly Asian American adults. Some adults with limited English proficiency face even greater discrimination in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognize that naming COVID-19 by its geographic location or linking it to a specific ethnicity perpetuates stigma; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the WHO issued guidance calling on media outlets, scientists, and national authorities to avoid naming infectious diseases for locations to avoid stigmatizing groups of people; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services stated, “ethnicity is not what causes the novel coronavirus” and that it is inappropriate and inaccurate to call COVID-19 the “Chinese virus”; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2020, Dr. Mitch Wolfe, the Chief Medical Officer of the CDC, said, “Stigma is the enemy of public health”; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Dr. Robert Redfield, the Director of the CDC, testified that use of the term “Chinese coronavirus” is wrong and inappropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary General of the United Nations called for international solidarity and an end to any ill-founded discrimination of the outbreak’s victims; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2021, President Biden issued a Presidential Memorandum “Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Cypress hereby

(1) Condemns and denounces all forms of anti-Asian sentiment, including those relating to COVID-19; and

(2) Recognizes that the health and safety of all Cypress residents, no matter their background, must be the utmost priority; and

(3) Condemns all manifestations and expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, anti-Asian sentiment, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious intolerance; and

(4) Calls on Federal law enforcement officials, working with State and local agencies

(A) to expeditiously investigate and document all credible reports of hate crimes, harassment, bullying, and threats against the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the United States; and

(B) to expand collection of data and public reporting to document the rise of incidents of hate crimes relating to COVID-19; and

(C) to hold the perpetrators of those crimes, incidents, or threats accountable and bring such perpetrators to justice, including through investigation and prosecution; and

(5) Calls on the Attorney General to work with State and local agencies and Asian American and Pacific Islander community-based organizations to prevent discrimination, and expand culturally competent and linguistically appropriate education campaigns on public reporting of hate crimes; and

(6) Calls on the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force and Asian American and Pacific Islander community-based organizations, to issue guidance describing best practices to mitigate racially discriminatory language in describing the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(7) Recommends the City of Cypress to serving as a leader in building more inclusive, diverse, and tolerant societies.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Cypress, and acting as ex-officio governing Board of Directors of the Cypress Recreation and Park District at a regular meeting held on the 12th day of April, 2021.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CYPRESS

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF CYPRESS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF ORANGE } SS

I, ALISHA FARNELL, City Clerk of the City of Cypress, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the said City Council held on the 12th day of April, 2021, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:
NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:
ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF CYPRESS