RESOLUTION NUMBER R- **313068**

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE ___JUN 0 4 2020___

A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-
ASIAN RACISM ARISING DUE TO FEARS OF THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC AND AFFIRMING THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO'S
COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF
ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego (City) is the largest city in San Diego County

(County), which was one of the first minority-majority counties in the nation, home to 440,660

Asians, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, who represent one out of every seven residents

and the fastest-growing racial group in the County; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that

can easily spread from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, since the December 2019 outbreak of the novel coronavirus (later named

SARS-CoV2) in Wuhan, China, the infection has grown to more than 3.21 million confirmed

cases and more than 228,000 confirmed deaths caused by COVID-19 worldwide as of May 1,

2020; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, over 1.12 million cases of

SARS-CoV2 infection have been reported in the United States as of May 3, 2020; 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, the outbreak of SARS-CoV2 has been referred to as "China Coronavirus", "Chinese Coronavirus", "Chinese Virus", "Kung-Flu" and "Wuhan Virus" in public discourse; and

WHEREAS, such rhetoric is reminiscent of the "yellow peril" in the late 1800s and the perception of Chinese Americans as perpetual foreigners excluded from immigration and naturalization by law for close to a century; the forced relocation and incarceration in concentration camps of Japanese Americans during World War II; the blaming of East Asians for unemployment in the period of economic competition with Asia Pacific nations in the 1980s; and the targeting of South Asians, Pakistanis and Sikhs in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 - to highlight only a few historical examples of scapegoating of ethnic minorities during times of national distress; and

WHEREAS, such rhetoric is inaccurate and stigmatizing, tends to incite fear and xenophobia, and may put individuals of Asian ancestry at risk of retaliation and deterrence from accessing resources and services, appearing in public, and expressing their identity; and

WHEREAS, as SARS-CoV2 has spread, numerous Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities have reported APIs experiencing microaggressions, racial profiling, hate incidents and, in some cases, hate violence due to fears of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and Chinese for Affirmative Action created an online reporting center "Stop AAPI Hate" to quantify and combat hate crimes targeting APIs - currently available in English, traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, Korean, Thai, Japanese, Khmer, Vietnamese, Punjabi, Tagalog, Hmong, and Hindi; and

WHEREAS, as of April 29, 2020, Stop AAPI Hate received 1,711 reports of hate acts in the first seven weeks across at least 45 states and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Stop AAPI Hate shows 27 cases of anti-API acts in San Diego County reported from March 19 to April 29, 2020 including incidences of verbal harassment, shunning, and physical assault; and

WHEREAS, over 30,000 businesses are API-owned in San Diego, with numerous dining and hospitality establishments having reported a decrease in business since January 2020 at the beginning of the outbreak; and

WHEREAS, over 50 local Asian Pacific Islander organizations issued a joint statement on April 9, 2020 denouncing xenophobia, racism and increasing acts of violence towards API communities has garnered support from 153 local organizations as well as hundreds of individuals; and

WHEREAS, a leading group of these API organizations 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 address health inequities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of San Diego (City Council), California, that:

1. The City denounces xenophobia and anti-API sentiment and condemns harmful rhetoric and racist acts arising due to the fears of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. The City joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of citizens, non-citizens and visitors with ancestry from the Asia Pacific region and in combating racist acts targeting APIs.

3. The City Council encourages the City to partner with community-based organizations, advocacy groups, as well as other appropriate officials and agencies across the county, to protect API residents and victims of discrimination and to curb hate acts related to COVID-19 for other groups, including, but not limited to, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Muslim, Jewish, and LGBTQIA communities, and people with disabilities.

4. The City Council recommends that City staff link the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center on the City's website to join the national effort of documenting and combating anti-API discrimination.

5. The City Council encourages the City to partner with the County of San Diego, healthcare providers and community-based organizations to educate the public on mental health services for those who have been traumatized or otherwise stigmatized by anti-API hate.

6. The City Council encourages City staff to work with the San Diego Human Relations Commission in documenting and investigating incidents of anti-API racism and promote respect for all residents in businesses and public areas.

7. The City Council encourages City Departments to ensure that all information, such as public health information and emergency and disaster relief resources, is disseminated effectively to Limited English Proficient (LEP) communities.

8. The City Council encourages City Departments to ensure that eligible minority-owned and disadvantaged small businesses have fair access to the City's resources, such as the Small Business Relief Fund, and can be directed to language assistance where needed.

9. The City Council urges the City to partner with community-based organizations to highlight API stories and uplift the contributions of API-owned businesses and API-led organizations.

10. The City calls upon all counties, cities, and local governments across the United States to adopt similar commitments to reaffirm their solidarity with API communities and commit to combating hate and improving health equity.

APPROVED: MARA W. ELLIOTT, City Attorney

By   /s/Jennifer L. Berry
     Jennifer L. Berry
     Deputy City Attorney

JLB:jvg
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Or.Dept:Council District 9
Doc. No.: 2371702_3

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San Diego, at this meeting of __06/02/2020_____.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND
City Clerk

By ___*/s/ Connie Patterson*___

Deputy City Clerk

Approved: __6/3/2020_____
(date)

KEVIN L. FAULCONER, Mayor

Vetoed: _____
(date)

KEVIN L. FAULCONER, Mayor

Passed by the Council of The City of San Diego on _____ **JUN 0 2 2020** _____, by the following vote:

Councilmembers	Yeas	Nays	Not Present	Recused
Barbara Bry	☒	☐	☐	☐
Jennifer Campbell	☒	☐	☐	☐
Chris Ward	☒	☐	☐	☐
Monica Montgomery	☒	☐	☐	☐
Mark Kersey	☒	☐	☐	☐
Chris Cate	☐	☐	☒	☐
Scott Sherman	☒	☐	☐	☐
Vivian Moreno	☒	☐	☐	☐
Georgette Gómez	☒	☐	☐	☐

Date of final passage _____ **JUN 0 4 2020** _____.

(Please note: When a resolution is approved by the Mayor, the date of final passage is the date the approved resolution was returned to the Office of the City Clerk.)

AUTHENTICATED BY:

_____ **KEVIN L. FAULCONER** _____
Mayor of The City of San Diego, California.

(Seal)

_____ **ELIZABETH S. MALAND** _____
City Clerk of The City of San Diego, California.

By _Connie Patterson_ Deputy

Office of the City Clerk, San Diego, California

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