

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, TO DENOUNCING THE
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE ASIAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITIES DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS IN
FRESNO

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno denounces the racial discrimination that Asian American communities have experienced in Fresno during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Asian American communities in Fresno, including but not limited to Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Iu-Mien, Japanese, Khmu, Korean, Lao, Punjabi, Thai, and Vietnamese; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno will continue to celebrate the diverse communities that make up the City of Fresno, call on all communities to stand in solidarity with those affected by racial discrimination, and work courageously together towards healing and recovery; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno is partnering with local organizations to address the heightened xenophobia and anti-Asian incidents that have increased throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Asian American communities continue to be instrumental and pioneers in the City of Fresno since the 1860s. Today, Asian Americans make up Fresno's second-largest community of color. Asian American community members serve as advocates, attorneys, business owners, educators, farmers, health care providers, industrial and maintenance workers, public service providers, and active contributors to the City of Fresno; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 epidemic has had a tremendous impact on all of Fresno, California, the United States, and globally; fear, decrease in mental wellness, and loss of economic security; and

WHEREAS, Asian American communities are faced with discrimination due to the stigma of COVID-19 and xenophobia including harassment, physical assaults, bullying, denial of service at local businesses, racial slurs, and damage to property; and

WHEREAS, since March 2020, Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition aimed at addressing anti-Asian discrimination amid the pandemic and founded by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, Chinese for Affirmative Action, and San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department, has documented 3,800 reports of anti-Asian hate incidents, with the vast majority of incidents (68%) reported by women; and

WHEREAS, Asian American communities are concerned about their physical and mental wellness and seek a Fresno community of healing and recovery; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno will not tolerate acts of aggression and harassment towards any communities including Asian American communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno recognizes the COVID-19 pandemic does not discriminate and that all Fresnoans are at risk of being infected by the virus; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, Saeng Bunsy was buying diapers at a Fresno store when a woman told her to "move out of my way" and then used a racial slur; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, a Lao family's car was vandalized with "[F-word], Asians [sic] and Coronovirus [sic];" and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2021, a Hmong American man was physically assaulted while on his morning walk in Roeding Park. No money or belongings were

taken; and

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2021, a Lao identified woman was threatened at the parking lot of Target at River Park, when a man pulled out his gun at her; and

WHEREAS, countless other incidents have been shared with trusted community partners, but there are limited linguistically accessible and culturally responsive ways to report hate incidents to the City of Fresno; and

WHEREAS, the targeted killings of six Asian women in Atlanta, Georgia, and the current events involving anti-Asian violence incite fear and a lack of safety in Asian communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The City of Fresno and supporting entities and community members, denounce the racial discrimination, white supremacy, and xenophobia towards Asian American residents and call on all communities to courageously work together towards healing and recovery.

2. The City of Fresno will look to address the disparity of leadership roles within all City departments, especially in Departments that have daily contact with the community including but not limited to Planning, Purchasing, Public Safety, and more.

3. The City of Fresno will work with community-based organizations in providing safe public spaces for our Asian community members, especially elders, women, and youth, that promote their physical and mental wellness, as well as healing in culturally responsive ways.

4. The City of Fresno will work with community-based organizations to address the systemic barriers to reporting Asian hate incidents through services like language-accessible hotlines and report data collected in categories disaggregated by ethnicity.

5. The City of Fresno will work with community-based organizations to support community-centered solutions that address public safety in culturally responsive ways for all communities.

6. In consultation with the Asian American collaborative, the City of Fresno will, within 120 days, commit to creating, funding, and staffing a liaison position to Asian American communities and community-based organizations in Fresno whose primary responsibilities will be to implement these commitments.

7. The liaison shall provide a semi-annual report to the Fresno City Council updating the public on the status of the desired outcomes listed in this resolution.

8. This resolution shall be effective upon final approval.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____ 2021.

AYES :
NOES :
ABSENT :
ABSTAIN :

YVONNE SPENCE, MMC CRM
City Clerk

By: _____
Deputy Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DOUGLAS T. SLOAN
City Attorney

By: _____
Laurie Avedisian-Favini Date
Assistant City Attorney