

RESOLUTION NO. 21-8953

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA
AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO STAND AGAINST
AND CONDEMN VIOLENCE AND HATE CRIMES AGAINST
ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Clara affirms its commitment to the well-being and safety of Asian American and Pacific Islander community members and advancing equity and justice for people of all races, national origins, and ethnicities;

WHEREAS, since the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in March 2020, harmful and xenophobic rhetoric related to the geographic origins of this disease resulted in a rise in violence and hate crimes against Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals, communities, and businesses throughout California and has further encouraged racism, prejudice, and discrimination against Asian American and Pacific Islanders;

WHEREAS, between March 19 and December 31, 2020, there have been over 700 reported incidents of racism and discrimination targeting Asian Americans in the San Francisco Bay Area, including incidents of verbal harassment, shunning, denial of access to services and public spaces, and physical assault; however, in recent months, there has been surge in reported attacks throughout the Bay Area, some notable for their violence and cruelty;

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our community and throughout the State of California are becoming increasingly concerned about their safety and well-being, given the rise of hate crimes and other racially motivated attacks;

WHEREAS, politically charged and culturally insensitive rhetoric referring to COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus" or "Kung Flu" has further promoted anti-Asian sentiments and exacerbated racism and violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders amid the COVID-19 pandemic;

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WHEREAS, despite these increasing acts of hate and bigotry, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made the City of Santa Clara more secure throughout its history, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, with an estimated 2 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders throughout our nation serving on the front lines of this crisis as healthcare providers, as first responders, and in other essential roles;

WHEREAS, over 44% of Santa Clara's population identifies as Asian American or Pacific Islander; the Santa Clara City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1899 to protect and safeguard the right and opportunity of all persons to be free from all forms of arbitrary discrimination, including discrimination based on age, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, in history and at this moment in time, we acknowledge the multiple harms and trauma that have existed and converged simultaneously in marginalized communities of all backgrounds in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Clara affirms its support of and commitment to the well-being, safety, and security of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the City of Santa Clara condemns racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
2. That the City of Santa Clara denounces and will not tolerate hate crimes, hateful rhetoric, or hateful acts against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
3. The City of Santa Clara joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and in combating violence and hate crimes targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

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4. Effective date. This resolution shall become effective immediately.


I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, AT A SPECIAL MEETING THEREOF HELD ON THE 23RD DAY OF MARCH, 2021, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: COUNCILORS: Becker, Chahal, Hardy, Jain, Park, and Watanabe, and Mayor Gillmor

NOES: COUNCILORS: None

ABSENT: COUNCILORS: None

ABSTAINED: COUNCILORS: None

ATTEST: 
NORA PIMENTEL, MMC
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
CITY OF SANTA CLARA

Attachments incorporated by reference: None