

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2021/114

Condemning Xenophobia and Hate Crimes Against Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Communities

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2020 the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors declared racism as a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, racism and scapegoating toward Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) has persisted since the 19th century and lead to policies like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prohibited immigration of Chinese laborers. During this time East Asians were represented as dangerous and threatening to the United States, one of many discriminating acts against immigrants from different Asian countries; and

WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian inflammatory rhetoric blaming COVID-19 on the AAPI community has perpetuated anti-Asian stigma and increased violent hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, weaponizing this type of rhetoric is inaccurate and stigmatizing which incites fear and xenophobia, and puts individuals of Asian ancestry at risk of retaliation in addition to deterrence from accessing resources and services, appearing in public, and expressing their identity; and

WHEREAS, the belief that AAPIs are a monolithic group and achieve universal success, also known as the “model minority myth,” perpetuates harmful stereotypes and masks the disparities within these communities, particularly among Southeast Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and

WHEREAS, the AAPI population is the fastest growing racial group in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the AAPI ethnic groups have made substantial and valuable cultural, economic, and civic contributions to the history of the United States, the State of California, and the County of Contra Costa; and

WHEREAS, over two million AAPIs are on the frontlines of the COVID–19 pandemic, working in health care, law enforcement, emergency services, food service, transportation and additional industries; and

WHEREAS, the national self-reporting center, Stop AAPI Hate, has recorded over 2,800 incidents of hate and discrimination in the United States since the pandemic began, with over 700 occurring in the Bay Area region; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County condemns all acts of hate and discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, or cultural basis; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County recognizes our AAPI families, friends and colleagues who face racism, as these widespread hate crimes have a traumatic rippling impact to

the AAPI community as well as the entire region; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County commends local community groups who have led grassroots efforts such as the civilian-led “foot strolls” in targeted areas like Oakland Chinatown with over 800 volunteers, to help protect the AAPI community; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County joins other 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 AAPIs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Contra Costa County calls upon all counties, cities, and local governments across the United States to adopt similar commitments to reaffirm their solidarity with AAPI communities and commit to combating hate by rejecting racist rhetoric and improving safety and health equity for all residents; **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Board of Supervisors encourages the exchange of healthy dialogue and proactive education in a continued effort to value and appreciate our diversity; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

DIANE BURGIS

Chair, District III Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA

District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN

District II Supervisor

KAREN MITCHOFF

District IV Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: March 30, 2021

Monica Nino, County Administrator

By: _____, Deputy