

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ANTI-ASIAN HATE

WHEREAS, nearly 6% of Alexandria's population is of Asian descent; and

WHEREAS, the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population of Alexandria makes significant contributions to the cultural, educational, and economic fabric of our community; and

WHEREAS, incidents of anti-AAPI violence and harassment in the United States have increased since the beginning of the pandemic, including efforts to scapegoat the AAPI community for the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, no race, nationality or ethnicity is responsible for COVID-19, and having Chinese ancestry, or any other ancestry, does not make a person more vulnerable to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, ignorance is the lifeblood of conspiracies that hamper our ability to fight the pandemic and endanger the most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, a July 2020 Pew Research Center study found that one third of members of the AAPI community reported being the target of racial slurs or scapegoating since the pandemic began; and

WHEREAS, a report released by Stop AAPI Hate revealed that there have been at least 3,795 hate incidents targeting the AAPI community from March 19, 2020, to February 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, in communities around our nation there have been horrific incidents against members of the AAPI community, including assaults, slashing, and deaths; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2021, eight people were killed in shootings in three Atlanta-area spas, six of whom were Asian women; and

WHEREAS, language that evokes xenophobia endangers our communities who are experiencing heightened discrimination; and

WHEREAS, AAPI businesses and workers have been hurt by the increase in hate and scapegoating incidents; and

WHEREAS, long-term unemployment has risen more sharply among workers who are members of the AAPI community than any other population; and

WHEREAS, while anti-Asian hate has accompanied the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in this country, it is sadly not new; and

WHEREAS, anti-Asian hate has erupted throughout American history, inflamed by labor pressures, international conflicts, or economic issues, sometimes resulting in racist government

acts, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II; and

WHEREAS, on his sixth day in office, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. issued an Executive Memorandum committing the Federal government to Condemn and Combat Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Alexandria, Virginia, condemns all hate directed at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our community; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Alexandria, Virginia, affirms its commitment to actively combating racism, achieving racial and social equity, and protecting Alexandria's vulnerable residents.

Adopted: March 23, 2021

JUSTIN M. WILSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton CMC, City Clerk