



Legislation Text

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 17, 2021

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER /s/

DOCKET TITLE:
Resolution Condemning Anti-Asian American Hate. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

ISSUE: Condemning anti-Asian American scapegoating and hate violence that is occurring in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council adopt the attached Resolution condemning anti-Asian American scapegoating and hate violence, and affirming the City's commitment to actively combatting racism and protecting its vulnerable residents.

BACKGROUND: President Biden issued an Executive Memorandum on his 6th day in Office committing the Federal government to Condemn and Combat Racism, Xenophobia, And Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Incidents of anti-Asian American hate violence and harassment have increased since the beginning of the pandemic, including efforts to scapegoat Asian Americans for the virus.

A Pew Research Center study found that one third of Asian Americans report being the target of racial slurs or scapegoating since the pandemic. There have been horrific incidents including assaults, slashing, and deaths in communities around our nation. Asian American businesses and workers have suffered economic losses and unemployment at an alarming rate due to bigotry and hate.

Nearly 6% of Alexandria's population is of Asian descent, and the Asian American population of Alexandria makes significant contributions to the cultural, educational, and economic fabric of our community.

ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Resolution

STAFF:

Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager

Jean Kelleher, Director, Office of Human Rights