

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION CONDEMNING HATE CRIMES AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS AND DECLARING THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO A HATE FREE ZONE

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed to the success of the United States economy for more than a century, including the building of the Trans-Continental Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders bravely fought and died in several US conflicts and wars; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are diverse comprising of several hundred cultures; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for at least 30% of the population in San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, anti-Asian racism and hate are not new and have a long history in the United States; and

WHEREAS, since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), including verbal, physical, and psychological abuse, have increased exponentially; and

WHEREAS, in major U.S. cities, the rate of anti-Asian hate crimes has increased by nearly 150% according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. Stop

AAPI Hate, a coalition that tracks the prevalence of anti-Asian hate crimes, reported over 2,800 incidents of hate within this past year; and

WHEREAS, numbers of hate crimes are anticipated to be much higher due to a large number of hate crimes that go unreported; and

WHEREAS, although largely unreported, incidents of racism, hate, and discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been occurring throughout San Mateo County. The increased rates of anti-Asian hate crimes impact community members of all ages, and are often directed at the most defenseless populations, the elderly and youths; and

WHEREAS, violent attacks on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders or anyone for any reason is irrational, but also a felony; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) recognize that naming COVID-19 by its geographic location or linking it to a specific ethnicity perpetuates stigma; and

WHEREAS, anti-Asian racism and hate must never be ignored or tolerated; and

WHEREAS, this increase in racism is leaving a traumatic impact on Asian American youth in the county. It is critical to acknowledge and condemn the targeting of hate, particularly for the next generation of Asian Americans, to move forward and create a more equitable San Mateo County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County in nationwide solidarity acknowledges the contributions of Asian and Pacific Islanders, affirms their support for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders,

AND RESOLVED FURTHER that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County condemns hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and declares San Mateo County as a hate free zone.

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