

RESOLUTION NO. .

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

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RESOLUTION DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT DUE TO FEARS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND AFFIRMING THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO'S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, hate crimes, discrimination, and aggression against Asian Americans are on the rise throughout the country as Asian American ethnic groups are being blamed for the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, more than 2,240,191 cases and more than 153,379 deaths have been confirmed worldwide as of April 17, 2020, according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 661,712 cases and 33,049 deaths have been reported in the United States as of April 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, scientists have confirmed that the COVID-19 disease does not respect borders and is not caused by ethnicity, and the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors because such characterizations can fuel ethnic and racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, according to 2019 estimates, approximately 30 percent of San Mateo County's 766,570 residents are of Asian heritage, compared with 15.3 percent for the State of California; and

WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 virus has spread, Asian Americans have reported experiencing offensive comments and actions related to their race, racial profiling, hate incidents, and, in some cases, hate violence; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a public health issue, not a racial one and characterizing COVID-19 as a “Chinese virus” only encourages hate crimes and incidents against Asian Americans at a time when communities should be working together to get through this crisis; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2020, the San Mateo County Asian Pacific Islanders Caucus and peninsula leaders issued a statement denouncing racism and xenophobia; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the County take leadership and stand in solidarity with its Asian American communities to send a message that discriminatory and hate-motivated behavior will not be tolerated; and

WHEREAS, all persons are encouraged to report any such xenophobic or discriminatory incidents to the proper authorities for investigation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of its Asian American community members and ensure they know they are not alone and that the County is committed to ending the spread of bigotry.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County hereby denounces xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment and joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming

its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian Americans and in combatting hate crimes targeting them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County will continue its efforts to protect and aid victims of hate acts, and to prosecute and curb hate crimes, related to COVID-19 in partnership with nonprofits, the County of San Mateo's District Attorney's Office, and our law enforcement partners.

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