

Resolution #6-R-21

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING XENOPHOBIA, RACISM, AND VIOLENCE AGAINST THE ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER DESIAMERICAN (APIDA) COMMUNITY.

Date: April 7, 2021

Submitted By: Ald. Thao – District 7, Ald. Meltzer – District 2, Ald. Van Zeeland – District 5, Ald. Fenton – District 6, Ald. Schultz – District 9, Ald. Wolff – District 12

Referred To: Safety & Licensing Committee

WHEREAS, 23 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for 7 percent of the population in the United States; and

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

WHEREAS, Asian Americans have far too long been the target of xenophobic policies, labor exploitation, hate crimes, and systemic racism in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian rhetoric, especially as it intensified this past year, has resulted in Asian Americans being harassed, assaulted, and scapegoated for the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism has found that anti-Asian hate crime in the 16 largest cities in the U.S. increased nearly 150% in 2020; and

WHEREAS, according to the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center, nearly 4,000 hate incidents directed at AAPIs were reported between March 2020 and February 2021; and

WHEREAS, in the last year, Asian American and Pacific Islander women made up 68 percent of the 3,800 incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and

WHEREAS, since the start of year 2021, there has been a surge in anti-Asian attacks targeting elderly Asian Americans; and

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

WHEREAS, this modern form of discrimination falls within a long-established historical pattern of scapegoating or characterizing Asians as foreign, invasive threats, or as “the other” that has contributed to demonstrated negative health effects in our AAPI communities; and

WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric related to COVID-19, such as the “Chinese Virus”, “Wuhan Virus”, and “Kung-flu” have perpetuated anti-Asian stigma; and

WHEREAS, no one should live in fear in our communities across Wisconsin and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City's AAPI residents are valued contributors to the City's workforce, economy, and political representation; and

WHEREAS, in Appleton, our thriving AAPI community is a major proportion of all of our residents and a thriving diverse community that spans languages, nationalities, ethnicities, cultures and more; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jake Woodford and Appleton Police Department Chief Todd Thomas recently announced that "hate has no home" in Appleton and they stand with the AAPI community in condemning all acts of discrimination and violence; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Appleton Common Council that the City of Appleton condemns violence of all forms against the APIDA community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appleton Common Council condemns all acts of racism, xenophobia, sexism, gender-based violence, discrimination, anti-Asian bias, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious intolerance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appleton Common Council encourages leaders at all levels to recommit the United States to serve as a world leader in building more inclusive, diverse, and tolerant communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appleton Common Council encourages the Attorney General to work with State and local agencies and Asian American and Pacific Islander community-based organizations to prevent discrimination and expand culturally competent and linguistically appropriate education campaigns on public reporting of hate crimes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appleton Common Council recognizes the City of Appleton Police Department in its continuing work with local agencies and Asian American and Pacific Islander community-based organizations to prevent discrimination, expand culturally competent and linguistically appropriate education campaigns on public reporting of hate crimes, and build intentional relationships with the diverse communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appleton Common Council encourages everyone to condemn anti-Asian bias, read, learn, and seek opportunities to experience cultures other than their own, review their practices that may create barriers or contribute to systemic racism, and in these ways and others seek to become a more welcoming, inclusive, anti-racist community.