



Statement in Support of Appleton City Resolution #6-R-21

April 27, 2021

The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region is disappointed by the Appleton Common Council's decision on April 21 to refer back Resolution #6-R-21 condemning xenophobia, racism and violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Swiftly passing this resolution would have provided an increased sense of safety and well-being for our AAPI residents. Instead, the council's decision has led to feelings of betrayal, a loss of trust, and heightened the fear many of our AAPI community members face every day.

We stand with our AAPI community leaders like Alderperson Maiyoua Thao who authored the resolution, and Kou Vang of the Hmong American Partnership who expressed deep disappointment in the council's decision. As leaders, we need to listen to and trust the lived experience of our residents, especially those who are marginalized. The Community Foundation supports the passing of the resolution with its original language and urges the Appleton Common Council to act quickly to avoid further harm to our AAPI community.

Just over a month ago, after the shootings in Atlanta, we called for everyone to stand together against racism to be the community we aspire to be. To do that, we need to rebuke any form of anti-AAPI discrimination and support our AAPI community members. Yet, here we are.

Our AAPI community members contribute so much and are a vital part of the fabric of our community. Now many of them are unsure whether they can call Appleton "home." This is understandable, as home is the place you are loved, respected, and cared for. Where you belong.

We believe in our community's lasting goodness and we strive to make sure our community always flourishes and is a special place to live – for everyone. We encourage the Appleton Common Council to do everything in their power to help ensure our AAPI community members can proudly and safely call Appleton home.

Respectfully,

Curt S. Detjen, President/CEO, Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region