



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
2021 MAR 29 PM 12:27
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: April 6, 2021

16

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

**A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ASIAN RACISM
AFFIRMING SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND
SAFETY OF ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

Since the December 2019 outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities throughout the country have experienced a significant increase in acts of discrimination, racial profiling, microaggressions, violence, and hate crimes. While we know that racist incidents extend to other groups, the pandemic has exacerbated these actions against API and requires us to denounce it.

The California-based advocacy organization Stop AAPI Hate collected a reported 42 cases of racist incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in San Diego County, mirroring a national trend of increased hate crimes. The organization's recorded over 2,800 firsthand accounts of anti-Asian hate from 47 states and the District of Columbia between the middle of March 2020 – when the pandemic hit – through the end of the year. According to their accounts, women were attacked 2 ½ times more than men.

Through this action the Board adopts a resolution to condemn anti-API hate and denounce xenophobia and anti-Asian racism.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER AND VICE CHAIR NORA VARGAS

1. Adopt the Resolution titled: A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ASIAN RACISM AFFIRMING SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ASIAN RACISM AFFIRMING SAN DIEGO COUNTY’S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING OF ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

Since the December 2019 outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities throughout the country have experienced a significant increase in acts of discrimination, racial profiling, microaggressions, violence, and hate crimes. While we know that racist incidents extend to other groups, the pandemic has exacerbated hate crimes against API and requires us to denounce it.

In 2020, the San Diego County District Attorney’s office filed charges in three cases of hate crimes against Asian Americans. Last May, the District Attorney’s office setup a hotline for individuals to call or submit online reports of hate crimes and racist incidents. According to a KPBS news report from March 4, 2021, the hotline received 110 reports of racist incidents, 10 of which were specifically directed to people of Asian descent. We expect that these incidents are underreported due to fear of stereotypes or language barriers.

The California-based advocacy organization Stop AAPI Hate collected a reported 42 cases of racist incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in San Diego County, mirroring a national trend of increased hate crimes. The organization’s recorded over 2,800 firsthand accounts of anti-Asian hate from 47 states and the District of Columbia between the middle of March 2020 – when the pandemic hit – through the end of the year. According to their accounts, women were attacked 2 ½ times more than men.

A report from California State University, East Bay’s Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism showed that anti-Asian hate crimes surged almost 150% last year. The report examined hate crimes in 16 of the largest cities in the United States, and found that the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes coincided with the rise in COVID-19 cases in March and April of 2020.

To begin to address these issues, San Diego County revived the Human Relations Commission on May 19, 2020 to focus on fostering a more inclusive and equitable San Diego. The Leon L. Williams San Diego County Human Relations Commission will look critically at government policies and practices to tackle racism issues, tackle difficult subjects, and increase cultural competency and empathy across society.

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As currently formed, San Diego County's Human Relations Commission has 31 members with representatives from law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, and from the Jewish, LGBTQIA, Asian-American Pacific Islander, African-American, and Native American communities. Representatives from other underrepresented groups will likely be included as well. Each supervisor appoints three representatives, including one young person each who is between the ages of 16 and 24.

Through this action, the Board adopts a resolution to condemn anti-API hate and denounce xenophobia and anti-Asian racism. Additionally, it activates the Leon L. Williams Human Relations Commission and Office of Equity and Racial Justice to work with community members to educate the public and actively work together with the API community in its efforts to denounce hate.

We urge your support.

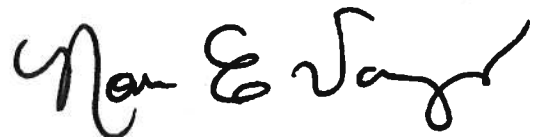
LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed actions support a person's ability to live safely in San Diego County. Through this proposed action San Diego County reinforces its commitment to building a resilient community and making San Diego County the safest urban county in the nation.

Respectfully submitted,



NATHAN FLETCHER
Chair, Fourth District



NORA VARGAS
Vice-Chairwoman, First District

ATTACHMENT(S)

RESOLUTION DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ASIAN RACISM AFFIRMING SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES.

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

On May 19, 2020 the County of San Diego reactivated the Human Relations Commission

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: First and Fourth Supervisorial Districts

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

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