

County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisorial District Three
Supervisor Otto Lee



105022

DATE: March 9, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Otto Lee, Supervisor
Susan Ellenberg, Supervisor

SUBJECT: Resolution on Condemning Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Hate Crimes and Violence

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution denouncing ongoing anti-Asian sentiment and violence against Asian American community members. (Lee/Ellenberg)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial costs associated with this referral.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The County of Santa Clara has a storied history in standing up for racial equity and social justice. Last year, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution that signified its support for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community by condemning discrimination towards them stemming from the COVID-19 virus.

Since then, the AAPI population has continued to become targeted as victims of discrimination and hate crimes.

Stop AAPI Hate, a hate-incident-reporting website launched by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and Chinese for Affirmative Action, received 2,808 reported incidents of racism and discrimination targeting Asian Americans across the U.S between March 19 and December 31, 2020. Over 700 have occurred in the Bay Area, including incidents of verbal harassment, shunning, denial of access to services and public spaces, and physical assault¹. Some experts consider the true number of incidents to be much higher due to underreporting.

¹ https://securereservercdn.net/104.238.69.231/a1w.90d.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Press-Statement-re_-Bay-Area-Elderly-Incidents-2.9.2021-1.pdf

It is important that the County continues to take a leadership role on a local level by standing with the AAPI community and calling on all constituents and leaders to join the County of Santa Clara in condemning racist attacks against Asian Americans, in all forms, and renewing our commitment to speak out against such attacks, defend and protect those targeted, and seek out and punish those who commit hate crimes against AAPI constituents.

BACKGROUND

On April 7, 2020, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution denouncing xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and affirming the County of Santa Clara's support of and commitment to the well-being and safety of Asian American communities. The resolution also sought out to ensure affected AAPI community members to know that they are not alone and that the County stands in their commitment to help stop the spread of bigotry.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution Denouncing Ongoing Anti-Asian Sentiment and Violence (PDF)