



Moorpark Office

Gordon N. Chan Community Services Center
2400 Moorpark Ave. Suite #300
San Jose, CA 95128

April 9, 2020

Councilmember Raul Peralez
San Jose City Council
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Councilmember Peralez,

Thank you for your memorandum recommending that the Rules Committee agenda a resolution condemning xenophobia and discrimination against Asian and Pacific Islander communities triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I have been deeply saddened and disturbed by the rhetoric and anti-Asian sentiment as a result of this crisis. Hate crimes and racist attacks against APIs across our country have further amplified fear that has existed long before this pandemic. Our community must come together and residents must feel safe during this frightening time. Our essential workforce, made up significantly of APIs and other communities of color, must also feel safe and protected as they serve and respond on the frontlines. Adoption of this resolution sends a strong message that the City of San Jose defends our residents, and that racism and xenophobia is unacceptable will not be tolerated.

I thank you for your leadership on this issue and urge your Council colleagues to prioritize and support the item. AACI continues to oppose all forms of racial hate and aggression, and stands with the City to continue fighting for the health and safety of all our residents.

Sincerely,

Sarita Kohli
President & CEO
AACI

CC: Rules and Open Government Committee
Mayor Sam Liccardo, Chair
Vice Mayor Chappie Jones, Vice Chair
Councilmember Silvia Arenas
Councilmember Johnny Khamis
Councilmember Dev Davis
Toni Taber, City Clerk



ASIAN LAW ALLIANCE

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April 9, 2020

Councilmember Raul Peralez
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

re: Rules Committee agenda item


Dear Councilmember Peralez:

We fully support the proposed resolution condemning xenophobia and discriminatory behavior towards the Asian Pacific Islander Community arising from the COVID -19 pandemic. As you know, Michele Lew of the Health Trust, Sarita Kohli of Asian Americans for Community Involvement and I co-authored an opinion piece that appeared in the March 13, 2020 edition of the San Jose Mercury News.
<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/03/13/6976387/>

A more recent incident in Midland Texas involving knife attack on a young family from Burma is the latest in disturbing series of events caused in part by the White House inflammatory "Chinese virus" language.

We fully support the adoption of the resolution you propose and look forward to working with you and the City council and City staff on this important issue.

Sincerely,


Richard Konda
Executive Director

From: Michele Lew
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2020 11:16 AM
To: City Clerk ; District3
Subject: Re: ROGC Item 20-143 on 4/15/2020 Agenda

Dear Councilmember Perez,

Thank you for championing a resolution condemning all xenophobic and discriminatory behavior toward the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Health Trust is a nonprofit focused on building health equity in Silicon Valley. We believe everyone in our community deserves the opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Income, race, immigration status, language, age, or zip code should never act as a barrier to health.

One of the greatest strengths of San Jose is its diversity. As our community battles COVID-19, we don't need to battle with each other. We stand ready to work with the City on strategies to be implemented to combat xenophobia against all communities post-COVID-19.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,
Michele Lew

Michele Lew
Chief Executive Officer
MLew@healthtrust.org
(o) 408.513.8701 | (f) 408.448.4055
The Health Trust | healthtrust.org

From: Rose Amador
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 10:40 AM
To: District3; raulperalez; City Clerk
Cc: rkonda@asianlawalliance.org
Subject: Anti-Xenophobia Resolution by Raul Peralez

Honorable Councilmember Peralez:

La Raza Roundtable de California is alarmed and outraged at the recent hate crimes against an Asian Americans. The Corona Virus – Covid 19- does not discriminate, as the virus continues to spread at an incredible speed affecting every single human being without regard to race or social economic status.

Thank you Councilmember Peralez for championing a resolution condemning all xenophobic and discriminatory behavior toward the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community.

We stand in strong and unequivocal support of our brothers and sisters in the Asian American community. One of the greatest strengths of San Jose is its diversity. We will not stand by in silence as sick and deranged individuals seek to scapegoat communities of color.

La Raza Roundtable de California sincerely appreciates your leadership on this serious issue.

Blessings,

Victor R. Garza, Chair

c: San Jose City Councilmembers

April 13, 2020

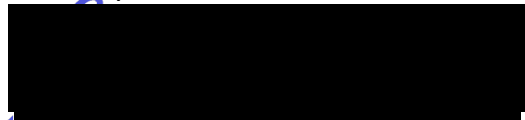
Dear Councilmember Perez,

In these unprecedented times, I am grateful for your steadfast leadership for our San José community. It is unfortunate that during a time where we should be coming together to ensure the health and safety of all our community, that there has been a sharp increase in anti-Asian hostilities locally and nationally. While racism and discrimination are an on-going issue for most ethnic minority groups, this acute spike in xenophobic action is alarming. The Silicon Valley Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition supports your resolution condemning these xenophobic and discriminatory behaviors towards the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community and your actions towards determining future strategies to minimize xenophobia against all communities post-COVID-19.

The Silicon Valley Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition (APIJC) was formed in 2006 to advocate for the needs of the API community in the region. Comprised of more than 20 organizations that work with the API population, APIJC has focused on highlighting the needs, identifying resources, and providing training to improve the well-being of the API community. APIJC also collaborates with our Black and Latinx communities. We are grateful that recently both the Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet and La Raza Roundtable have issued statements of solidarity with the API community and condemning the anti-Asian hostilities.

San José's beauty, innovation, and uniqueness is a product of the diversity in our community. Xenophobia against any group is wrong and divisive. APIJC supports your efforts and stands in solidarity with all our community now as we battle COVID-19 and in the future to combat xenophobia. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Edwin T. Tan.

Edwin T. Tan, Ph.D.

Silicon Valley Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition



Esteemed Councilmembers, Mr. Mayor, and Staff,

The Vietnamese American Roundtable (VAR) is a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to mobilize, advocate for, and inform our community of the critical issues that impact their lives. We write in strong support of the Resolution proposed by Councilmember Raul Perez to denounce xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment while we must face the threat of COVID-19.

While our community has had to endure this pandemic, the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community has had to endure a disease that existed long before COVID-19 – racism. There have been plenty of stories about AAPIs facing verbal barrages, name calling, and even physical assaults across the nation.

These incidences have conveyed to our board and our volunteers that we must remain vigilant against misguided perceptions about the AAPI community and about COVID-19 itself. What has magnified our fears and concerns is what our board members themselves have witnessed and experienced. Friends have been verbally assaulted, our members have been harassed.

Disturbingly, we also face calls to step up and do more to address COVID-19 to prove our “American-ness.” AAPIs are on the frontline of this fight in our hospitals and research facilities. We are on the frontlines in law enforcement and government services. We are on the frontlines providing support to the community through the food supply chain, media, and volunteerism.

It is important that this Resolution denounce racism and prejudice in all its forms, and it is equally important that this Resolution recognizes that the AAPI community is already part of this community and part of the fight against COVID-19.

We urge the Council to support this Resolution.

Sincerely,

Huy Tran, on behalf of the Vietnamese American Roundtable