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WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

April 14, 2020

**RE: Item G.4 - Resolution Condemning Xenophobia Against the Asian Pacific Islander Community Stemming from the COVID-19 Crisis and Related Actions.**

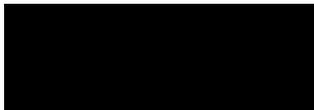
Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo and Members of the Rules and Open Government Committee,

I would like to respectfully ask your support in adopting a resolution condemning all xenophobic and discriminatory behavior towards the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Community arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. As the State Assemblymember representing San Jose, and as a member in leadership of the California Assembly API Caucus, currently serving as Parliamentarian, it is a priority of mine to ensure that the API community has the support from all elected leaders. During a time when our city and state should be focusing on mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 virus, it is unfortunate that members of the API community face an additional threat.

Discrimination and racist xenophobia are horrific societal ills and should never occur under any circumstance. It is especially harmful during a pandemic, when millions of people are already negatively affected --- whether through illness, economic hardship, or losing loved ones. Yet, we have Federal leaders who have incited the fear and hatred by using terms such as “Chinese virus”. Using such unscientific terms is not harmless. Intentionally using words have created hateful actions that have jeopardized the safety of our API neighbors and businesses.

We must stand together to support each other and condemn those who feed into the bigotry and hatred that seek to divide our communities. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership in protecting our community during this pandemic.

Sincerely,



ASH KALRA