

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE CONDEMNING ALL XENOPHOBIC AND DISCRIMINATORY BEHAVIOR TOWARD THE ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY ARISING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND AFFIRMING THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY IN SAN JOSE

WHEREAS, in late December 2019, several cases of unusual pneumonia began to emerge in the Hubei province of China, and on January 7, 2020, a novel coronavirus now known as COVID-19 was identified as the likely source of the illness; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency on January 31, 2020, and the President issued a Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning COVID-19 beginning March 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of California proclaimed a State of Emergency (Executive Order N-25-20) to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, the City of San José (“City”) issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency finding that the existence and threat of COVID-19 in the community give rise to conditions of extreme peril to the safety and health of persons within the City; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Santa Clara County Public Health Officer issued an Order to all residents to shelter in place and businesses to close except for essential

activities, essential services and governmental services as defined under Section 10 of the Order; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Governor issued an Order (Executive Order N-33-20) that all individuals living in the State of California stay home or at their place of residence, except as needed to maintain continuity of operations for certain critical infrastructure sectors, to protect the public health of Californians, to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, and to ensure the healthcare delivery system is capable of serving all; and

WHEREAS, since the December 2019 outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in Wuhan, China, WHO reports the infection has grown to more than 1,991,562 confirmed cases and more than 130,885 confirmed deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, according to the WHO, over 604,070 cases have been reported in the United States as of April 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the WHO issued guidance calling on media, outlets, scientists, and national authorities to avoid naming infectious diseases for locations to avoid stigmatizing groups of people, and the WHO as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognize that naming COVID-19 by its geographic location or linking it to a specific ethnicity perpetuates stigma; and

WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric related to COVID-19, such as the “Chinese virus”, “Wuhan virus”, and “Kung-flu” is inaccurate and stigmatizing, tends to incite fear and xenophobia, and may put Asian-Americans at risk of retaliation; and

WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 virus has spread, numerous Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have reported experiencing discrimination, microaggressions, racial profiling, hate incidents, and hate violence due to fears of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to quantify and combat hate crimes targeting Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders stemming from people's reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, two Bay Area groups – Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (“A3PCON”) and Chinese for Affirmative Action (“CAA”) created an online reporting center where people can fill out a form, currently available in English, traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, and Korean, to report the location and type of discrimination experienced and other details; and

WHEREAS, AP3CON and CAA plan to use the information reported to create targeted education and media campaigns, provide resources to those affected, and advocate for policies to curb racial targeting; and

WHEREAS, 35% of the population of San José identifies as Asian and the City Council wishes to condemn all xenophobic and discriminatory behavior toward the Asian Pacific Islander community arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and affirm the well-being and safety of the Asian Pacific Islander community in San José; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE:

Condemns all xenophobic and discriminatory behavior toward the Asian Pacific Islander (“API”) community arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and affirms the well-being and safety of the API community.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

SAM LICCARDO
Mayor

ATTEST:

TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk