



Susan Wengraf  
Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 9, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Wengraf (author), Councilmember Robinson (co-sponsor) and Councilmember Kesarwani (co-sponsor), Mayor Arreguin (co-sponsor)

Subject: Resolution Condemning Anti-Asian Hate and Violence

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Condemning Anti-Asian Hate and Violence

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley has taken a strong stand condemning racist incidents of hate against all people as codified in Resolution No. 68,508 –N.S. passed July 10, 2018. On November 17, 2020 Council voted to improve hate crimes reporting and response in the City of Berkeley. As a community, Berkeley has zero tolerance for hate incidents against any racial or ethnic group.

While the pandemic's long-lasting impact has affected public health and the economy, the Asian-American community has also experienced the fallout of COVID-19, being unfairly blamed for the pandemic and becoming the target of discrimination and violence.

South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and Middle Eastern communities all faced a surge in recurring harassment and violence in the wake of 911 and after the election of Donald Trump. Since the onset of the pandemic, anti-Asian hate incidents have been primarily directed at East Asians with more than 2,500 reports of anti-Asian hate incidents related to COVID-19 between March and September 2020, nationally. And this number understates the actual number of anti-Asian hate incidents because most incidents are not reported.

California leads the nation in numbers of anti-Asian hate incidents. California Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus member, Assemblyman David Chiu, D-San Francisco, announced at a news conference on February 12, 2021 the reintroduction of

his 2017 bill “to require the California Department of Justice to establish toll-free hotlines in an online form to report hate incidents and hate crimes.”

In the Bay Area there has been a recent surge of violent assaults and attacks on Asian American elders including an assault against a 91-year old man who was shoved violently into a cement sidewalk in Oakland’s Chinatown on January 31<sup>st</sup> and an elderly Asian man who was fatally assaulted in San Francisco earlier in the month.

The organization, Stop AAPI Hate, reports that, “Chinese made up the ethnic group most often targeted, making up 40.7% of incidents. Asian Americans as a whole, though, are being racially profiled and attacked. Koreans (15.1%); Vietnamese (8.2%) and Filipinos (7.2%) have also faced COVID-19 discrimination in high numbers.”

By passing a resolution condemning all verbal and physical assaults against Asians, the City is taking the important step to both acknowledge and denounce the racist actions publicly. The resolution also reminds residents to speak up, and intervene if possible, when witnessing anyone being targeted by anti-Asian hate.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No direct impact to environmental sustainability

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:

1: Resolution

2: California Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Press Conference, Feb 12, 2021: <https://fox40.com/news/california-connection/california-lawmakers-address-recent-spike-in-violence-against-asian-american-community/>

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ANTI-ASIAN HATE AND VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley has taken a strong stand condemning racist incidents of hate against all people as codified in Resolution No. 68,508 –N.S. passed July 10, 2018; and

WHEREAS, As a community, Berkeley has zero tolerance for hate incidents against any racial or ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, While the pandemic's long-lasting impact has affected public health and the economy, the Asian-American community has also experienced the fallout of COVID-19, being unfairly blamed for the pandemic and becoming the target of discrimination and violence; and

WHEREAS, South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and Middle Eastern communities all faced a surge in recurring harassment and violence in the wake of 911 and after the election of Donald Trump; and

WHEREAS, Since the onset of the pandemic, anti-Asian hate incidents have been primarily directed at East Asians with more than 2,500 reports of anti-Asian hate incidents related to COVID-19 between March and September 2020, nationally. And this number understates the actual number of anti-Asian hate incidents because most incidents are not reported; and

WHEREAS, California leads the nation in numbers of anti-Asian hate incidents; and

WHEREAS, In the Bay Area there has been a recent surge of violent assaults and attacks on Asian American elders including an assault against a 91-year old man who was shoved violently into a cement sidewalk in Oakland's Chinatown on January 31<sup>st</sup> and an elderly Asian man who was fatally assaulted in San Francisco earlier; and

WHEREAS, The organization, Stop AAPI Hate, reports that, "Chinese made up the ethnic group most often targeted, making up 40.7% of incidents. Asian Americans as a whole, though, are being racially profiled and attacked. Koreans (15.1%); Vietnamese (8.2%) and Filipinos (7.2%) have also faced COVID-19 discrimination in high numbers."

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that Berkeley condemns all racist verbal and physical assaults against Asians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley encourages all residents to speak up, and intervene if possible, when witnessing anyone being targeted by anti-Asian hate.

