

City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 148

Approved May 13, 2020

WHEREAS, Hate crimes, discrimination, and aggression against Asian Americans are on the rise throughout the country largely due to xenophobic actors blaming Asian American ethnic groups for the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, more than 5,441,079 cases and more than 207,270 deaths have been confirmed worldwide as of April 27, 2020, according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 928,619 cases and 52,459 deaths have been reported in the United States as of April 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Scientists have confirmed that the COVID-19 disease does not respect borders and is not caused by ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors because such characterizations can fuel ethnic and racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, According to 2019 estimates, approximately 6.1 percent of Providence's 179,335 residents are of Asian heritage; and

WHEREAS, As the COVID-19 virus has spread, Asian Americans have reported experiencing offensive comments and actions related to their race, racial profiling, hate incidents, and, in some cases, hate violence; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a public health issue, not a racial one and characterizing COVID-19 as a "Chinese virus" only encourages hate crimes and incidents against Asian Americans at a time when communities should be working together to get through this crisis; and

WHEREAS, It is critical that the City take leadership and stand in solidarity with its Asian American communities to send a message that discriminatory and hate motivated behavior will not be tolerated; and

WHEREAS, All persons are encouraged to report any such xenophobic or discriminatory incidents to the proper authorities for investigation; and

WHEREAS, The City Council wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of its Asian American community members and ensure they know they are not alone and that the City is committed to ending the spread of bigotry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Providence City Council hereby denounces xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment and joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian Americans and in combatting hate crimes targeting them.

IN CITY COUNCIL

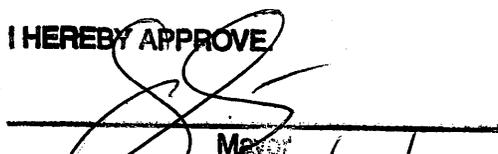
MAY 07 2020

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE


Date: 5/13/20