

RESOLUTION NO. 2662

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS CONDEMNING AND COMBATING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, AND INTOLERANCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS.

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, hate crimes against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community across the country have soared;

WHEREAS, from March 19, 2020 to February 28, 2021, the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center received reports of over 3,500 hate incidents that consisted of verbal harassment, physical assaults, civil rights violations, and online harassments;

WHEREAS, the use of the phrase “China virus” to refer to the coronavirus has resulted in a shift in how some people in the U.S. perceive Asian Americans;

WHEREAS, researchers have found that such rhetoric contributes to bias against Asian Americans and to the perception of Asian Americans as being more ‘foreign,’ which can cause people to express hostility toward Asian Americans and engage in acts of violence and discrimination against them. This research was published in the article “After ‘The China Virus’ Went Viral: Racially Charged Coronavirus Coverage and Trends in Bias Against Asian Americans,” by Sean Darling-Hammond, et al., published in the Health Education and Behavior Journal, 2020 Dec; 47(6): 870-879;

WHEREAS, such language is reminiscent of a few historical examples of ethnic minority scapegoating during times of national distress, including the perception of Chinese Americans as perpetual foreigners and being deemed the “yellow peril” in the late 1800s when Chinese people were subsequently excluded from immigration and naturalization by law for close to a century; the forced relocation and incarceration in concentration camps of Japanese Americans during World War II; the killings and targeting of Filipino migrant workers in California in the 1920’s and 1930’s; the blaming of East Asians for unemployment in the period of economic competition with Asia Pacific nations in 1980s; and the targeting of South Asians, Pakistanis and Sikhs in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001;

WHEREAS, such rhetoric incites fear and xenophobia, and puts individuals of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry at risk of retaliation and deterrence from accessing resources and services, appearing in public, and expressing their identity;

WHEREAS, scientists have confirmed that COVID-19 respects no national borders, no social bounds, no political systems or cultural values;

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2021, Clark County passed a Resolution Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders;

WHEREAS, the City of North Las Vegas is a diverse community committed to the principles of equity and inclusion and supports said Resolution; and

WHEREAS, during this Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the City also wishes to highlight the history, culture, and countless contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and more importantly, affirms its commitment to their safety and well-being.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of North Las Vegas through the passage of this Resolution, that:

1. The City of North Las Vegas condemns racism, intolerance, xenophobia, and Anti-Asian sentiment and supports the AAPI community in their efforts to combat the same;
2. The City of North Las Vegas joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of the AAPI community and in combating hate crimes targeting AAPIs; and
3. The City of North Las Vegas calls for civility, kindness, respect, and love for one another during this very challenging time.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS
THIS ____ day of _____ by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

APPROVED:

John J. Lee, Mayor

ATTEST:

Catherine A. Raynor, MMC, City Clerk