

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-21-229 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Lan Sena, by request

1 RESOLUTION

2 DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA, ANTI-ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER
3 (AAPI) SENTIMENTS AND CONDEMNING HARMFUL RHETORIC, RACIST
4 ACTS, AND HATE CRIMES TARGETING ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICANS
5 STEMMING FROM PEOPLE’S REACTION TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

6 WHEREAS, Article VIII of the City Charter states that, “The Council shall
7 preserve, protect and promote human rights and human dignity.... and shall
8 prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin
9 or ancestry, age or physical handicap”; and

10 WHEREAS, stigmatization represents a serious threat to our collective
11 emergency response to the pandemic. It furthers dangerous and false
12 information about how COVID-19 spreads, misinforms people’s perception of
13 risk and repeats mistakes in our own history during past emergencies when
14 racist and xenophobic sentiment targeted vulnerable groups; and

15 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”)
16 asserts that stigma associated with COVID-19 may currently be affecting
17 persons of Asian descent, people who have traveled, and emergency
18 responders or healthcare professionals; and

19 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) has indicated that
20 attaching locations or ethnicity to the disease is dangerous. The official name
21 for the disease was deliberately chosen to avoid stigmatization – the “co”
22 stands for Corona, “vi” for virus and “d” for disease, and 19 for the emergence
23 of the disease in 2019. It is not a “Chinese virus,” “Asian virus” or “Wuhan
24 virus”; and

25 WHEREAS, the Stop-AAPI Hate Reporting Center has reported 3,795
26 incidents between March 19, 2020 to February 28, 2021 involving anti-AAPI

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1 discrimination including incidents of verbal assault, shunning, physical
2 assault, Civil Rights violations and online harassment; and

3 WHEREAS, the Pew Research Center has reported that 3 in 10 Asian
4 Americans have experienced racial slurs since the beginning of the pandemic;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, stigmatization represents a serious threat to our collective
7 emergency response to the pandemic. It furthers dangerous and false
8 information about how COVID-19 spreads, misinforms people's perception of
9 risk and repeats mistakes in our own history during past emergencies when
10 racist and xenophobic sentiment targeted vulnerable groups; and

11 WHEREAS, AAPI immigrants and health care workers cannot be made the
12 scapegoats of COVID-19 and Asian Americans do not represent a greater risk
13 of spreading COVID-19; and

14 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization ("WHO") states that stigmatized
15 groups may be subjected to social avoidance or rejection, denials of
16 healthcare, education, housing or employment, and physical violence, and
17 also indicates that stigma can result in more severe health problems and
18 difficulties controlling a disease outbreak by driving people to hide the illness
19 to avoid discrimination, preventing people from seeking health care
20 immediately, and discouraging them from adopting healthy behaviors; and

21 WHEREAS, there has been recent increase in violence against Asian-
22 Americans due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, including AAPI students of all
23 ages; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),
25 identified suicide as the second leading cause of death among 12–18 year
26 olds; and

27 WHEREAS, national data from the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance
28 System reported that 8.0% of American youth had at least one suicide attempt
29 within the twelve months preceding the survey; comparatively, 11.8% of Native
30 Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) youth and 9.5% of Asian American (AA)
31 youth had at least one suicide attempt; and

1 WHEREAS, among males, Asians were the most likely to attempt
2 suicide compared to other groups; and similar pattern was seen for feeling
3 sad or helpless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row; and

4 WHEREAS, the City has a duty to speak out against all forms of
5 discrimination and especially now, as stigmatization of our fellow Americans
6 during the pandemic will only hurt our recovery efforts; and

7 WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to assure its vulnerable communities
8 that the City supports them, will do all it can to maintain and improve their
9 quality of life, and does not tolerate acts of hate, discrimination, bullying, or
10 harassment; and

11 WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to reaffirm and declare that
12 Albuquerque is a safe place for AAPIs, as well as for all ethnic, racial, and
13 religious groups, LGBTQ people, and people with disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, this City Council believes in the human dignity of all
15 Albuquerque residents, regardless of immigration status, and recognizes the
16 importance of immigrants' many contributions to the social, cultural,
17 intellectual and economic fabric of the City; and

18 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque is made up of diverse individuals, both
19 native born and immigrants, whose collective cultures, religions,
20 backgrounds, orientations, abilities and viewpoints join to form a highly
21 pluralistic community which prides itself on being a place which welcomes
22 persons and families of all walks of life; and

23 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque has a strong tradition and mission of
24 embracing and valuing diversity and the City Council believes that it is
25 similarly important to support diversity and to provide services to all persons
26 in the City regardless of their race, disability, national origin, gender identity,
27 religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, economic or immigration status (in
28 addition to any other protected classes under local, state, or federal law); and

29 WHEREAS, on April 6, 2018, the Albuquerque City Council adopted
30 Resolution R-18-7 Albuquerque as an Immigrant Friendly City wishing to
31 assure its vulnerable communities that the City supports them, will do all it
32 can to maintain and improve their quality of life, and does not tolerate acts of
33 hate, discrimination, bullying, or harassment; and

1 WHEREAS, on April 6, 2018, the Albuquerque City Council adopted
2 Resolution R-18-7 Albuquerque as an Immigrant Friendly City wishing to
3 assure its vulnerable communities that the City supports them, will do all it
4 can to maintain and improve their quality of life, and does not tolerate acts of
5 hate, discrimination, bullying, or harassment; and

6 WHEREAS, the City Council is greatly concerned about public safety in
7 Albuquerque and the mission of the Albuquerque Police Department is to
8 protect the safety of the public against crimes committed by persons whoever
9 they may be.

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
11 ALBUQUERQUE:

12 SECTION 1. That the City Council does hereby denounces stigmatization,
13 hateful racism and xenophobia during the covid-19 pandemic, against
14 particular groups of people, notably AAPI immigrants and healthcare workers.

15 SECTION 2. That the City Council does hereby proclaim its renewed and
16 ongoing commitment to be a diverse and inclusive community free from
17 racism, so all who live, work, and play in Albuquerque feel welcomed.
18 Albuquerque strongly stands against hate, bias, or violence based on race,
19 nationality, gender, disability, or religion, and urge all residents to unite
20 together in solidarity with our AAPI neighbors.

21 SECTION 3. That the City Council encourages the City to partner with
22 community-based organizations, advocacy groups, as well as other
23 appropriate officials and agencies across the county, to protect AAPI
24 residents and victims of discrimination and to curb hate acts related to COVID-
25 19 for other groups, including, but not limited to all ethnic, racial and religious
26 groups, and LGBTQIA communities, and people with disabilities.

27 SECTION 4. That the City Council joins cities, counties, and states across
28 the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of
29 citizens, non-citizens and visitors with ancestry from the Asia Pacific region
30 and in combating racist acts targeting AAPIs.

31 SECTION 5. That the City Council encourages the City to partner with the
32 County of Bernalillo, healthcare providers and community-based

1 organizations to educate the public on mental health services for those who
2 have been traumatized or otherwise stigmatized by anti-AAPI hate.

3 Section 6. That the City Council encourages City staff to continue to work
4 with the City of Albuquerque's Office of Civil Rights in documenting and
5 investigating incidents of anti-AAPI discrimination and promote respect for all
6 residents in businesses and public areas.

7 Section 7. That the City Council calls upon all counties, cities, and local
8 governments across the United States to adopt similar commitments to
9 reaffirm their solidarity with AAPI communities and commit to combating hate
10 and improving health equity.

11 Section 8. That the City Council encourages City Departments to ensure
12 that eligible minority-owned and disadvantaged small businesses continue to
13 have fair access to the City's resources, such as the Small Business Relief
14 Fund, and are directed to language assistance where needed.

15 Section 9. That the City Council urges the City to partner with community-
16 based organizations to highlight AAPI stories and uplift the contributions of
17 AAPI-owned businesses and AAPI-led organizations.

18 Section 10. That the City Council urges the City to engage youth who are
19 both victims and perpetrators of AAPI Hate through a restorative justice
20 framework to prevent youth criminalization and further harm to the City's
21 communities.

22 Section 11. That the City Council recognizes that it is the policy of the City
23 to ensure that all information, such as public health information and
24 emergency and disaster relief resources, is disseminated effectively to Limited
25 English Proficient ("LEP") communities.

26 Section 12. That the City Council supports the equal treatment of all
27 persons and states that all persons who live within the City should have full
28 access to all City services with respect and dignity, including public safety
29 services and programs, regardless of their race, disability, national origin,
30 gender identity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, economic or
31 immigration status (in addition to any other protected classes under local,
32 state, or federal law).

1 Section 13. The Chief Administrative Officer shall communicate these
2 policies to all City employees within 30 days of this resolution.

3 Section 14. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause,
4 phrase, or portion of this resolution is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by
5 the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not
6 affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

7 Section 15. COMPILATION. This Resolution shall be incorporated in and
8 made part of the Code of Resolutions as “Anti-AAPI Hate Policy.”

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