

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** March 16, 2021  
**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Kelly Stachowicz, Assistant City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution Condemning Racism of and Standing in Support of Persons of Asian Heritage and Pacific Island Heritage

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### **Recommendation**

Approve attached Resolution Condemning Racism of and Standing in Support of Persons of Asian Heritage and Pacific Island Heritage

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact.

### **Council Goal(s)**

Ensure a safe, healthy, equitable community.

### **Background and Analysis**

With the emergence of COVID-19, which likely originated in Wuhan, China, harassment, violence and other crimes against persons of Asian heritage and Pacific Island heritage have increased. Communities in the area are being asked to take a stand against this type of racism and in support of persons of Asian heritage and Pacific Island heritage.

The Human Relations Commission reviewed a draft resolution at their meeting of February 25 and recommended some changes. Those changes, as well as other adjustments from Mayor Partida and Vice Mayor Frerichs, have been incorporated, and the attached resolution is recommended for approval by the City Council.

### **Attachments**

1. Resolution

## **RESOLUTION 21-XX, SERIES 2021**

### **A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RACISM OF AND STANDING IN SUPPORT OF PERSONS OF ASIAN HERITAGE OR PACIFIC ISLAND HERITAGE**

WHEREAS, the City of Davis' support for inclusion and belonging for people of all races, national origins, and ethnicities is critical to guaranteeing the safety and security of all people; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, inflammatory and xenophobic rhetoric has put persons of Asian heritage or Pacific Island heritage, families, communities, and businesses at risk; and

WHEREAS, the City of Davis recognizes that statements at the federal level have played a role in furthering xenophobic sentiments, including references to the COVID-19 pandemic by the geographic location of its origin; and

WHEREAS, such statements have promoted unfounded fears and perpetuated stigma about persons of Asian heritage or Pacific Island heritage and have contributed to increasing rates of bullying, harassment, and hate crimes against them; and

WHEREAS, these actions have been in contravention of the best practices and guidelines of public health officials and have caused significant harm to Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander families and communities that require being addressed; and

WHEREAS, persons of Asian heritage or Pacific Island heritage are a critical part of our civic community, having made substantial contributions to our city, our state and our nation, with persons of Asian heritage or Pacific Island heritage serving in essential roles from front line workers, researchers, health care providers, community leaders, and in other essential roles. In the past, Chinese workers made unthinkable sacrifices to build the transcontinental railway, which include tracks that gave rise to Davisville; Japanese Americans living in California were unjustly treated and interned during World War II; and Filipino Americans have long toiled in Central Valley farms; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020, the City's Human Relations Commission, which is charged by the City Council to promote diversity and denounce discrimination, issued a statement speaking out against xenophobia aimed at people of Asian heritage or Pacific Island heritage; and

WHEREAS, the City of Davis, and the state and federal government should combat racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and work to ensure that all members of Asian and Pacific Island communities — no matter their background, the language they speak, or their religious beliefs — are treated with dignity and equity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DAVIS hereby condemns racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against persons of Asian heritage and Pacific Island heritage; and accepts responsibility for preventing and correcting racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against everyone in the city, including persons of Asian heritage or Pacific Island heritage.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that all members of the Davis community are called upon to assist in the furtherance of these objectives and to commit to uplift and show ongoing support to persons of Asian heritage or Pacific Island heritage now and in the future.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Davis on the sixteenth of March, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Gloria Partida, Mayor

ATTEST:

Zoe Mirabile, CMC  
City Clerk