

PROCLAMATION

Condemning Violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency that has caused devastating effects throughout the world and across political and social boundaries, and was not created or caused by any race, nationality, or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization recognizes that public health emergencies often lead to stigma, demonization, discrimination and scapegoating towards certain communities and groups; and

WHEREAS, anti-Asian sentiment has been a long-standing part of American history from People v. Hall and the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 to the 1942 executive order that led to internment camps for Japanese people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, hate crimes targeting Asian American and Pacific Islanders increased by nearly 150 percent in major cities despite decreasing overall in the last year and 44 percent of the incidents reported to Stop AAPI Hate are from California; and

WHEREAS, on August 30, 1893, the city of Redlands experienced anti-Chinese riots with a large number of Chinese and Asian Americans expelled from the city; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been facing bias incidents such as verbal harassment, physical assault, job discrimination, and destruction of their businesses as they are being blamed for the outbreak and spread of COVID-19, perpetuated by rhetoric stemming from federal leadership in 2020; and

WHEREAS, three deadly shootings targeted Asian American businesses in Atlanta, GA on March 17, 2021; and

WHEREAS, violent attacks have particularly intensified against Asian senior citizens and such xenophobia and discrimination can have a range of adverse physical and mental health consequences for stigmatized groups and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities are one of the fastest growing populations in San Bernardino County and make up roughly 10 percent of the population of Redlands; and

WHEREAS, the societal fabric of the City of Redlands includes residents who are of Asian American and Pacific Islander ethnicity that are deserving of the equal freedoms and protections afforded to every person under the law;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDLANDS,

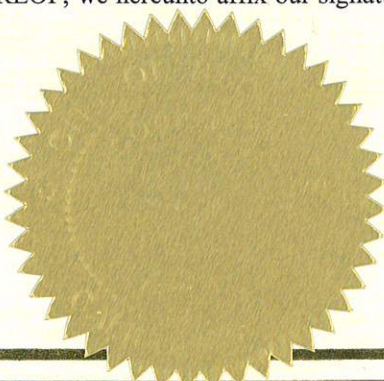
Section 1. That the City of Redlands will not tolerate xenophobia and condemns the rise in hate crimes, attacks, and attitudes against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities;

Section 2. That the City of Redlands urges residents to join in calling attention to these harms and denouncing hate to help keep us all safe during this pandemic and beyond;

Section 3. This City Council is committed to protecting residents who are targets of hate acts and furthermore understands that its public safety departments provide tools and resources for reporting such crimes;

Section 4. This City Council and the City will maintain its strong working relationship with partner agencies in law enforcement agencies or the non-profit sector to prosecute and curb hate acts related to COVID-19.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we hereunto affix our signatures and Official Seal of the City of Redlands on this 6th day of April 2021.



Handwritten signature of Paul T. Barich in blue ink.

Paul T. Barich, Mayor

Attest:

Handwritten signature of Jeanne Donaldson in blue ink.

Jeanne Donaldson, City Clerk