



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 18, 2021

From: City Manager Clay Holstine

Subject: Resolution No. 2021-25 Denouncing Racism and Affirming the City's Commitment to the Well-Being and Safety of the Asian American Pacific Islander Community

Community Goal/Result

Safe Community - Residents and visitors will experience a sense of safety

Community Building - Brisbane will honor the rich diversity of our city (residents, organizations, businesses) through community engagement and participation

Recommendation

Adopt Resolution Denouncing Racism and Affirming the City's Commitment to the well-being and safety of the Asian American Pacific Islander Community.

Discussion

During the COVID-19 pandemic, across the Country, there has been an alarming increase of harassment, discrimination, and violence against the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Asian American Pacific Islanders have been targeted and blamed for the COVID-19 outbreak due to the prevalence of racist rhetoric like calling COVID-19 the "Chinese flu" and the lack of understanding of the Asian American Pacific Islander experience in this country. The group Stop Asian American Pacific Islander Hate reported that they have received 3,000 reports of anti-Asian American Pacific Islander incidences from 47 states and Washington D.C. since March of 2020.

About 30% of the City of Brisbane's population is of Asian descent, which is significantly higher compared with 15% for the State of California. A resident reached out to the City Council and City staff asking what the City can do to denounce the racism and increased violence against the Asian American Community and how can the city be more inclusive to the Asian American Pacific Islander community.

In response to the community concerns, the proposed resolution affirms the City's commitment to the well-being and safety of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

Also, the City will cosponsor a community-led vigil in the Brisbane Community Park on March 20, 2021 to stand in solidarity with the Asian American Pacific Islander Community and denounce racism in all forms.

Fiscal Impact

None

Attachment

Resolution No. 2021-25

Clayton L. Holstine

Clay Holstine, City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-25

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA, RACISM, AND ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT DUE TO FEARS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, hate crimes, discrimination, and aggression against Asian Americans are on the rise throughout the country as Asian American Pacific Islander ethnic groups are being blamed for the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 29,506,986 cases and 535,758 deaths have been reported in the United States as of March 12, 2021; and

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

WHEREAS, approximately 30 percent of the City of Brisbane's 4,692 residents are of Asian heritage, compared with 15.3 percent for the State of California; and

WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 virus has spread, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have reported experiencing offensive comments and actions related to their race, racial profiling, hate incidents, and, in some cases, violence, hospitalization, and tragically, even death as a result of their assault; and

WHEREAS, since March 19, 2020, the organization Stop AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) Hate received about 3,000 of first-hand reports of anti-Asian hate across 47 states and Washington, D.C.; and

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

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2021, a community-led vigil will be held in the Brisbane Community Park to stand with Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in solidarity to denounce racism; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the City of Brisbane wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of its Asian American Pacific Islander community members and ensure they know they are welcomed, respected, and valued, and that their city stands united against hate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Brisbane hereby denounces xenophobia, racism, 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 Pacific Islanders and in combatting hate crimes targeting them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will continue its efforts to protect and aid victims of hate acts related to COVID-19 in partnership with local nonprofits, community volunteers, and our law enforcement partners.

Karen Cunningham, Mayor

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2021- was duly and regularly adopted at the regular meeting of the Brisbane City Council on March 18, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Ingrid Padilla, City Clerk