



**STAFF REPORT**  
**4/14/2021**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Best Best & Krieger LLP, City Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 2021-26, Denouncing Violent Crimes Against Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders Across the Country

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution entitled “Resolution of the City Council of the City of Coachella, California, Denouncing Violent Crimes Against Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders Across the Country.”

**BACKGROUND:**

At its Regular Meeting on March 8, 2021, the Human Rights Commission denounced the alarming increase in violent crimes against Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) across the country. Anti-Asian sentiment is a long-standing part of American history including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, and Internment of Japanese American people in the United States. The Human Rights Commission discussed how this increase of violent crimes against the AAPI Community across the country, and these expressions of hate and prejudice, have no place in our society.

Three San Francisco Bay organizations created StopAAPIHate.org to serve as an aggregator of anti-Asian hate crimes incidents. The coalition has reported the following information:

- Hate crimes targeting the AAPI Community increased nearly 150 percent in major cities.
- Businesses are the primary site of discrimination (35.4%), followed by public streets (25.3%), and public parks (9.8%). Online incidents account for 10.8% of the total incidents.
- 3 in 10 Asian Americans (31%) report having experienced racial slurs or racist jokes since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Chinese are the largest ethnic group (42.2%) that report experiencing hate, followed by Koreans (14.8%), Vietnamese (8.5%), and Filipinos (7.9%).
- States with high Asian American populations report the most incidents. CA (43.8%); NY (13.0%); WA (4.1%); and IL (2.8%) have the highest rates
- There has been a documented pattern of recent attacks against the AAPI Community.

- They have received nearly 3,800 reports of hate incidents across the country since March 2020

Recent cases of violence against the AAPI Community include the deadly assault on Vicha Ratanapakdee who was brutally attacked while on his morning walk in San Francisco and died from a resulting brain hemorrhage, and the three deadly shootings which targeted Asian American businesses in Atlanta, Georgia on March 17, 2021, resulting in the deaths of eight people.

In recent years, Coachella experienced 4 hate crimes and/or incidences.

The Human Rights Commission expressed that it stands in solidarity with the entire AAPI Community in condemning those who commit anti-Asian violence. They call on the community to be vigilant, watch out for your neighbors, and together speak out against racism and hate driven violence. The attached resolution denouncing such actions has been prepared for City Council consideration.

**DISCUSSION:**

The proposed resolution proclaims that the City of Coachella:

- Will not tolerate xenophobia and condemns the rise in hate crimes, attacks, and attitudes against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities;
- Urges residents to join in calling attention to these harms and denouncing hate to help keep us all safe during this pandemic and beyond;
- Will commit to protecting residents who are targets of hate by providing tools and resources for reporting such crimes;
- Will prosecute and curb hate acts related to COVID-19 in partnership with nonprofit organizations, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, and the City's Police Department/Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Resolution No. 2021-26, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Coachella, California, Denouncing Violent Crimes Against Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders Across the Country