

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION FOR
RESIDENTS OF GRAND RAPIDS WHO IDENTIFY AS ASIAN-AMERICAN OR
PACIFIC ISLANDER**

WHEREAS Covid-19 fueled bias, fear, hostility and racism against Asian and Pacific Islander communities in parts of the nation, and

WHEREAS the 117th Congress, recognizing this, passed and the President signed into law on May 20th, 2021, the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act, Public Law No: 117-13, which calls on state and local governments to improve reporting of anti-Asian hate and violence, while offering guidance and resources on how to do so; and

WHEREAS the City of Grand Rapids is home to residents including business owners and children who identify as members of the Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities; and

WHEREAS racism can exist and occur as interpersonal and systemic institutional challenges within the City of Grand Rapids and other jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS combating racism of all types requires active participation at both the community and legislative levels; and

WHEREAS the vision statement for the City of Grand Rapids' 2040 Comprehensive Plan calls for a community that "provide(s) access to high quality of life for everyone" and neighborhoods and gathering spaces that are "safe, friendly and diverse..."; and

WHEREAS Grand Rapids' statement of Community Values includes the aspiration to "support friendly, vital and welcoming and inclusive neighborhoods....for everyone to feel at home"; so be it

THEREFORE RESOLVED that the City of Grand Rapids opposes any anti-Asian sentiments targeting Asian American and Pacific Islander residents or visitors in any form; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Grand Rapids City Council expresses support, appreciation, and gratitude to the residents and visitors of Grand Rapids who identify as Asian-American and Pacific Islander for enriching our community with their presence and for their many contributions to our community life; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Grand Rapids will continue to provide accurate, effective and unbiased messaging regarding the subject of this resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Grand Rapids will continue to ensure that its staff development, equity training, policy development, and other actions are inclusive of Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council commits to reaching Asian-American and Pacific Islander residents and visitors to express support for them with regard to addressing bias, discrimination, and xenophobia, and directs the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission to assist city staff in this effort; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Grand Rapids commits to partnering with community organizations working to address xenophobia and racism directed at Asian-American and Pacific Islanders in the Grand Rapids Area; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Grand Rapids invites other county and city governments to join Grand Rapids in opposing xenophobic and racist attacks towards Asian-American and Pacific Island communities.

Adopted: _____

By: _____