

Agenda Report Reviewed by:
City Manager: 

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM**

Meeting Date: April 6, 2021
To: Honorable City Councilmembers
From: Agenda Review Committee
Subject: Adoption of Resolution Condemning and Combating Racism and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and All People, Regardless of Their Race, Color of Skin, Religion, National Origin, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Disability, or Age, and Commitment to Inclusion and Advancing Equity and Justice for People of All Races, National Origins, and ethnicities and Commitment to No Tolerance of Any Actions and Or Comments of Hate of Any Kind to any Person
Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution
Funding: Currently Budgeted: Yes No N/A
Net General Fund Cost: None

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget AK (verified by Administrative Services Department)

INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE:

The item tonight is for City Council approval of Adoption of Resolution Condemning and Combating Racism and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and All People, Regardless of Their Race, Color of Skin, Religion, National Origin, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Disability, or Age, and Commitment to Inclusion and Advancing Equity and Justice for People of All Races, National Origins, and ethnicities and Commitment to No Tolerance of Any Actions and Or Comments of Hate of Any Kind to any

BACKGROUND:

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in California in March 2020, harmful and xenophobic rhetoric related to the geographic origins of this disease resulted in a rise in reported hate incidents and crimes against Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) individuals, communities, and businesses throughout the state.

DISCUSSION:

We continue to hear disturbing accounts of incidents occurring throughout the United States of senseless violence against Asians undoubtedly exacerbated by COVID-19 and hateful rhetoric spewed by some prominent political leaders during this past year.

Although there have been no such incidents of hate crime reported in Sebastopol, we have just experienced hate speech, discriminatory comments, racism and bigotry against our own members of our community. Recently two members of the Climate Action Committee were subjected to hate speech comments during a scheduled meeting. Because of the COVID 19 Pandemic Shelter in Place Orders, all meetings have been held virtually which has allowed for more public participation. Until recently City meetings have not had to experience the “zoom bombing” that has occurred elsewhere. We are taking and continue to take measures to ensure during these public meetings no tolerance to this behavior.

The City makes the commitment that anyone using abusive, vulgar, offensive, threatening, or harassing language, personal attacks of any kind or offensive terms that target specific individuals or groups, or makes efforts to disrupt City meetings will be muted and removed from the meeting.

We cannot condone nor tolerate this not only in Sebastopol but in the world. All of our lives are enriched by those in our presence that bring diversity to our life experiences and we should not and will not stand for or tolerate this behavior. With these terrible events happening not only in the world, but in our own community, this Resolution expresses the Council's position denouncing hate crimes and rhetoric against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and condemns racism and intolerance against all races, national origins, and ethnicities and reaffirms our commitment to No Tolerance of Any Actions and Or Comments of Hate of Any Kind to any Person and affirms our commitment for equity, justice and making members of our community and all visitors feel safe and welcome without fear.

Sebastopol is a community that stands against hate and wants residents and business owners to know they are not alone in this stance. No one should be the target of any form of hate. We cannot allow anyone in our community, businesses, residents, employees, visitors, or volunteers to be subject to hate of any kind.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, if staff receives public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report, such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of this item.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to schedule meeting date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item tonight.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council Approve Adoption of Resolution Condemning and Combating Racism and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and All People, Regardless of Their Race, Color of Skin, Religion, National Origin, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Disability, or Age, and Commitment to Inclusion and Advancing Equity and Justice for People of All Races, National Origins, and ethnicities and Commitment to No Tolerance of Any Actions and Or Comments of Hate of Any Kind to any

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

Resolution Number _____

Resolution Condemning and Combating Racism and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and All People, Regardless of Their Race, Color of Skin, Religion, National Origin, Sexual Orientation, Gender, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Disability, or Age, and Commitment to Inclusion and Advancing Equity and Justice for People of All Races, National Origins, and ethnicities and Commitment to No Tolerance of Any Actions and Or Comments of Hate of Any Kind to any Person

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) communities are immensely diverse, consisting of multiple ethnicities, hundreds of languages and dialects, wide-ranging socioeconomic characteristics, and distinct immigration patterns; and

WHEREAS, Racism and scapegoating toward AAPIs have persisted since the 19th century and contributed toward policies like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prohibited immigration of Chinese laborers, and introduction of the term “yellow peril,” which represented East Asians as dangerous and threatening to the United States; and

WHEREAS, Racist policies continued into the 20th century with the Immigration Act of 1924 effectively banning all immigration from Asia; Executive Order 9066 in 1942 authorizing the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II; and others that have impacted Southeast Asian Americans, South Asians, Muslims, and Sikhs, among others; and

WHEREAS, Since the outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in California in March 2020, hateful rhetoric regarding COVID-19 has contributed to a spike in discrimination and hate crimes toward Asian Americans; and

WHEREAS, Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition aimed at addressing anti-Asian discrimination amid the pandemic and founded by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, Chinese for Affirmative Action, and San Francisco State University’s Asian American Studies Department, documented over 2,800 hate incidents targeting AAPIs in the United States and received reports of over 800 hate incidents in California against AAPIs related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the highest in the country; and

WHEREAS, Incidents have included physical assault, verbal harassment, shunning, workplace discrimination, refusal of service, and online harassment; and AAPIs are increasingly concerned about their safety and well-being, given the rise of racially motivated attacks and hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, despite these increasing acts of hate and bigotry, AAPIs during the COVID19 pandemic, with an estimated 2 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders serving on the front lines of this crisis as healthcare providers, as first responders, and in other essential roles; and

WHEREAS, All acts of hate and discrimination are antithetical to our values as Sebastopol residents, Californians, and Americans. As a community, it is our duty to promote respect, inclusion, and a welcoming community for people of all races, national origins, and ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, All acts of hate and discrimination are antithetical to our values as Sebastopol residents, Californians, and Americans. As a community, it is our duty to promote respect, inclusion, and a welcoming community for people of all sexual orientations, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, , disabilities, and ages.

WHEREAS, all Sebastopol residents can play a role in establishing a safe and welcoming community by intervening and reporting instances of hate and discrimination. Reporting these incidents is critical to holding perpetrators accountable and fully addressing the issue.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Sebastopol hereby condemn and will continuously work to combat racism, hate, discrimination, prejudice, and intolerance against all people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sebastopol City Council will work jointly with members of the community to develop tangible, community-led solutions to root out discrimination, hate, and systemic racism, and uplift solidarity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sebastopol City Council will explore opportunities to prevent discrimination, bullying, harassment, and hate crimes against individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sebastopol City Council will work to ensure that all members of our community, regardless of their race, color of skin, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, disability, or age, are treated with dignity and equity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sebastopol City Council values our entire community and continues our commitment to No Tolerance and reaffirms that anyone using abusive, vulgar, offensive, threatening, or harassing language, personal attacks of any kind or offensive terms that target specific individuals or groups, or makes efforts to disrupt City meetings will be muted and removed from the meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sebastopol City Council commits to advancing policies of inclusiveness, equity and justice for all people; and will continuously support and promote community historical and educational projects that promote community inclusiveness and social equity for all Sebastopolians regardless of their race, color of skin, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, disability, or age.

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly passed, approved, and adopted at a meeting by the City Council on the 6th Day of April 2021, by the following vote:

VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED: _____
Mayor Una Glass

ATTEST: _____
Mary Gourley, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM: _____
Larry McLaughlin, City Attorney