

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-21-229 ENACTMENT NO. R-2022-004

SPONSORED BY: Lan Sena, by request

1 RESOLUTION
2 DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA, ANTI-ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER
3 (AAPI) SENTIMENTS AND CONDEMNING HARMFUL RHETORIC, RACIST
4 ACTS, AND HATE CRIMES TARGETING ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICANS
5 STEMMING FROM PEOPLE’S REACTION TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

6 WHEREAS, Article VIII of the City Charter states that, “The Council shall
7 preserve, protect and promote human rights and human dignity... and shall
8 prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin
9 or ancestry, age or physical handicap”; and

10 WHEREAS, stigmatization represents a serious threat to our collective
11 emergency response to the pandemic. It furthers dangerous and false
12 information about how COVID-19 spreads, misinforms people’s perception of
13 risk and repeats mistakes in our own history during past emergencies when
14 racist and xenophobic sentiment targeted vulnerable groups; and

15 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”)
16 asserts that stigma associated with COVID-19 may currently be affecting
17 persons of Asian descent, people who have traveled, and emergency
18 responders or healthcare professionals; and

19 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) has indicated that
20 attaching locations or ethnicity to the disease is dangerous. The official name
21 for the disease was deliberately chosen to avoid stigmatization – the “co”
22 stands for Corona, “vi” for virus and “d” for disease, and 19 for the emergence
23 of the disease in 2019. It is not a “Chinese virus,” “Asian virus” or “Wuhan
24 virus”; and

25 WHEREAS, the Stop-AAPI Hate Reporting Center has reported 3,795
26 incidents between March 19, 2020 to February 28, 2021 involving anti-AAPI

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1 discrimination including incidents of verbal assault, shunning, physical
2 assault, Civil Rights violations and online harassment; and

3 WHEREAS, the Pew Research Center has reported that 3 in 10 Asian
4 Americans have experienced racial slurs since the beginning of the pandemic;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, AAPI immigrants and health care workers cannot be made the
7 scapegoats of COVID-19 and Asian Americans do not represent a greater risk
8 of spreading COVID-19; and

9 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) states that stigmatized
10 groups may be subjected to social avoidance or rejection, denials of
11 healthcare, education, housing or employment, and physical violence, and
12 also indicates that stigma can result in more severe health problems and
13 difficulties controlling a disease outbreak by driving people to hide the illness
14 to avoid discrimination, preventing people from seeking health care
15 immediately, and discouraging them from adopting healthy behaviors; and

16 WHEREAS, there has been recent increase in violence against Asian-
17 Americans due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, including AAPI students of all
18 ages; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),
20 identified suicide as the second leading cause of death among 12–18 year
21 olds; and

22 WHEREAS, national data from the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance
23 System reported that 8.0% of American youth had at least one suicide attempt
24 within the twelve months preceding the survey; comparatively, 11.8% of Native
25 Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) youth and 9.5% of Asian American (AA)
26 youth had at least one suicide attempt; and

27 WHEREAS, among males, Asians were the most likely to attempt suicide
28 compared to other groups; and similar pattern was seen for feeling sad or
29 helpless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row; and

30 WHEREAS, the City has a duty to speak out against all forms of
31 discrimination and especially now, as stigmatization of our fellow Americans
32 during the pandemic will only hurt our recovery efforts; and

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1 **WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to assure its vulnerable communities**
2 **that the City supports them, will do all it can to maintain and improve their**
3 **quality of life, and does not tolerate acts of hate, discrimination, bullying, or**
4 **harassment; and**

5 **WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to reaffirm and declare that**
6 **Albuquerque is a safe place for AAPIs, as well as for all ethnic, racial, and**
7 **religious groups, LGBTQ people, and people with disabilities; and**

8 **WHEREAS, this City Council believes in the human dignity of all**
9 **Albuquerque residents, regardless of immigration status, and recognizes the**
10 **importance of immigrants' many contributions to the social, cultural,**
11 **intellectual and economic fabric of the City; and**

12 **WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque is made up of diverse individuals, both**
13 **native born and immigrants, whose collective cultures, religions,**
14 **backgrounds, orientations, abilities and viewpoints join to form a highly**
15 **pluralistic community which prides itself on being a place which welcomes**
16 **persons and families of all walks of life; and**

17 **WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque has a strong tradition and mission of**
18 **embracing and valuing diversity and the City Council believes that it is**
19 **similarly important to support diversity and to provide services to all persons**
20 **in the City regardless of their race, disability, national origin, gender identity,**
21 **religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, economic or immigration status (in**
22 **addition to any other protected classes under local, state, or federal law); and**

23 **WHEREAS, on April 6, 2018, the Albuquerque City Council adopted**
24 **Resolution R-18-7 Albuquerque as an Immigrant Friendly City wishing to**
25 **assure its vulnerable communities that the City supports them, will do all it**
26 **can to maintain and improve their quality of life, and does not tolerate acts of**
27 **hate, discrimination, bullying, or harassment; and**

28 **WHEREAS, the City Council is greatly concerned about public safety in**
29 **Albuquerque and the mission of the Albuquerque Police Department is to**
30 **protect the safety of the public against crimes committed by persons whoever**
31 **they may be.**

32 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF**
33 **ALBUQUERQUE:**

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1 SECTION 1. That the City Council does hereby denounces stigmatization,
2 hateful racism and xenophobia during the COVID-19 pandemic, against
3 particular groups of people, notably AAPI immigrants and healthcare workers.

4 SECTION 2. That the City Council does hereby proclaim its renewed and
5 ongoing commitment to be a diverse and inclusive community free from
6 racism, so all who live, work, and play in Albuquerque feel welcomed.
7 Albuquerque strongly stands against hate, bias, or violence based on race,
8 nationality, gender, disability, or religion, and urge all residents to unite
9 together in solidarity with our AAPI neighbors.

10 SECTION 3. That the City Council encourages the City to partner with
11 community-based organizations, advocacy groups, as well as other
12 appropriate officials and agencies across the county, to protect AAPI
13 residents and victims of discrimination and to curb hate acts related to COVID-
14 19 for other groups, including, but not limited to all ethnic, racial and religious
15 groups, and LGBTQIA communities, and people with disabilities.

16 SECTION 4. That the City Council joins cities, counties, and states across
17 the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of
18 citizens, non-citizens and visitors with ancestry from the Asia Pacific region
19 and in combating racist acts targeting AAPIs.

20 SECTION 5. That the City Council encourages the City to partner with the
21 County of Bernalillo, healthcare providers and community-based
22 organizations to educate the public on mental health services for those who
23 have been traumatized or otherwise stigmatized by anti-AAPI hate.

24 Section 6. That the City Council encourages City staff to continue to work
25 with the City of Albuquerque's Office of Civil Rights in documenting and
26 investigating incidents of anti-AAPI discrimination and promote respect for all
27 residents in businesses and public areas.

28 Section 7. That the City Council calls upon all counties, cities, and local
29 governments across the United States to adopt similar commitments to
30 reaffirm their solidarity with AAPI communities and commit to combating hate
31 and improving health equity.

32 Section 8. That the City Council encourages City Departments to ensure
33 that eligible minority-owned and disadvantaged small businesses continue to

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1 have fair access to the City’s resources, such as the Small Business Relief
2 Fund, and are directed to language assistance where needed.

3 Section 9. That the City Council urges the City to partner with community-
4 based organizations to highlight AAPI stories and uplift the contributions of
5 AAPI-owned businesses and AAPI-led organizations.

6 Section 10. That the City Council urges the City to engage youth who are
7 both victims and perpetrators of AAPI hate through a restorative justice
8 framework to prevent youth criminalization and further harm to the City’s
9 communities.

10 Section 11. That the City Council recognizes that it is the policy of the City
11 to ensure that all information, such as public health information and
12 emergency and disaster relief resources, is disseminated effectively to Limited
13 English Proficient (“LEP”) communities.

14 Section 12. That the City Council supports the equal treatment of all
15 persons and states that all persons who live within the City should have full
16 access to all City services with respect and dignity, including public safety
17 services and programs, regardless of their race, disability, national origin,
18 gender identity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, economic or
19 immigration status (in addition to any other protected classes under local,
20 state, or federal law).

21 Section 13. The Chief Administrative Officer shall communicate these
22 policies to all City employees within 30 days of this resolution.

23 Section 14. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause,
24 phrase, or portion of this resolution is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by
25 the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not
26 affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

27 Section 15. COMPILATION. This Resolution shall be incorporated in and
28 made part of the Code of Resolutions as “Anti-AAPI Hate Policy.”

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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 20th DAY OF December, 2021
2 BY A VOTE OF: 8 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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Excused: Harris

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Cynthia D. Borrego, President
City Council

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APPROVED THIS 27 DAY OF June, 2021

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Bill No. R-21-229

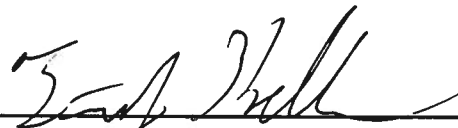
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Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
City of Albuquerque

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ATTEST:

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Ethan Watson, City Clerk

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