



March 17, 2021

General Public Comment, Open Session, Agenda Item #19

Re: Resolution Denouncing Hate Crimes and Rhetoric Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)

Thank you, Madame Mayor and City Council, for bringing this resolution. Care First supports it enthusiastically.

Violence, intimidation and hateful rhetoric against any group based on its skin color, ethnicity, faith, sexual preference, gender or gender identification are crimes against conscience, humanity and the essence of civilization. And, fortunately, they are considered crimes under the law in great part. While this hard-won standard is based on self-evident truths, it is painfully apparent that there are those who operate violently and hatefully under errant belief systems.

The recent wave of attacks on AAPI people in the U.S. is no doubt spurred by yet another variant of racist right-wing rhetoric. Another reminder that white supremacy still infects our country and requires very little to become symptomatic. Until its causes can be dismantled, we must bring public policy to bear at every level and with every resource.

Furthermore, as a San Gabriel Valley city with a sizeable AAPI population, South Pasadena has a special duty to protect against vile actions such as we've seen. This issue is close to home, and you clearly agree.

This resolution is a great start, and you have our full support. Please also consider taking the following related actions:

- 1) Review all City policies and codes, identifying and correcting provisions that may have a disparate negative impact on our AAPI community and all communities of color. Urge SPUSD to do the same.
- 2) To deter racially motivated acts of violence and vandalism in our city, position unmanned, surplus SPPD patrol cars near businesses owned, staffed or frequented by AAPI people.

Thank you for your action on this matter, and for your consideration of further action.

Sincerely,

Matthew Barbato
Ella Hushagen
John Srebalus
Helen Tran