Memo

To: John A. Russo, City Manager
From: Farrah N. Khan, Councilmember
       Christina L. Shea, Mayor
Date: 4/19/20
Re: Resolution in Support of Irvine's Asian American Community

In the weeks since the Coronavirus spread to the United States, there has been a noted increase of bias incidents targeting Asians and Asian Americans.

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus. There is no common characteristic with the disease and human ancestry. It doesn’t have a race, religion, nationality or political ideology. This renewed iteration of bigotry and hatred must be stopped.

The City of Irvine shows its solidarity with the Asians and Asian Americans who live, work, go to school and serve in Irvine and denounce bigotry and acts of hatred.

cc: Irvine City Council
    Molly M. Perry, City Clerk
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 20-xx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, DENOUNCING CORONAVIRUS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ASIANS AND ASIAN AMERICANS

Whereas, the mission of the City of Irvine is to maintain a community where people can live, work and play in an environment that is safe, vibrant and aesthetically pleasing;

Whereas, the growth of the Asian community in the City of Irvine has greatly contributed to the economic growth and success of the City of Irvine;

Whereas, over 45 percent of the City’s population is of Asian descent;

Whereas, many of the City of Irvine’s essential workers at the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic in health care, first responders, supermarkets, and other service industries are of Asian descent;

Whereas, the use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric related to COVID-19 have perpetuated anti-Asian stigma; and

Whereas, the increased use of anti-Asian rhetoric has resulted in Asians and Asian Americans being harassed, assaulted, and scapegoated for the COVID-19 pandemic, including at least two reported incidents in the City of Irvine.

Now, therefore, the City Council of Irvine, California resolves the following:

1. Strongly condemns and denounces anti-Asian sentiment in any form;
2. Recognizes a racially inclusive environment is essential to the the health and safety of all its residents;
3. Calls on local law enforcement to work with State and Federal law enforcement officials to investigate and document all credible reports of COVID-19 related hate crimes and threats; and
4. Commits to collecting and publicly reporting data on reported COVID-19 related bias in the City of Irvine.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Irvine at a regular meeting held on the xx date of March, 2020.