



RESOLUTION NO. 18G
BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDERS DUE TO FEARS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND REAFFIRMING THE CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, 23 million Asian American and Pacific Islanders (APIs) account for seven percent of the nation's population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in Contra Costa County, APIs make up over 19 percent of the county's adult population; and 12 percent of 4CD's employees and students are APIs, including hundreds of international students from Asian countries; and

WHEREAS, racism toward APIs has always existed, such as the 19th-century scapegoating of APIs, also known as the "Yellow Peril"; and

WHEREAS, racism against APIs has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, approximately 31 percent of APIs report having been subject to discrimination since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a Pew Research Center report; and

WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric related to COVID-19, such as the "Chinese Virus," "Wuhan Virus," and "Kung-Fu flu" have perpetuated anti-Asian stigma and violence; and

WHEREAS, scientists have confirmed that the COVID-19 disease does not respect borders and is not caused by ethnicity, and the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors because they can fuel ethnic discrimination; and

WHEREAS, since January 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of hate crimes, micro-aggressions and incidents of implicit bias against those of Asian descent, immigrants, and other vulnerable communities of color; and

WHEREAS, recently, horrific and senseless attacks against elderly API individuals resulted in hospitalizations and death; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2021, three elderly Asian Americans were assaulted in the City of Oakland's Chinatown District, including a 91-year-old Asian man who sustained serious injuries, in what is deemed a hate crime; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2021, 84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee, a nearly-blind and gentle elderly Thai man, died from injuries resulting from an attack while he was walking in the City of San Francisco, in what is deemed as a hate crime; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) approved Resolution No. 22A, Denouncing Xenophobia and Discrimination Against APIs Due to Fears of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Affirming 4CD's Commitment to the Well-Being and Safety of API Communities; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2017, and again on January 25, 2017, 4CD approved Resolution No. 1S, Reaffirming Support of 4CD Students and Employees in Defense of Inclusion and Diversity in 4CD; and

WHEREAS, 4CD recognizes that the health and safety of all Americans, no matter their background, must be the utmost priority and 4CD condemns all manifestations of expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, anti-Asian sentiment, scapegoating and ethnic or religious intolerance; and

WHEREAS, 4CD calls on federal law enforcement officials, working with State and local agencies to expeditiously investigate and document all credible reports of hate crimes, harassment, bullying, and threats against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 4CD condemns and denounces all forms of anti-Asian sentiment, including those related to COVID-19, and calls for public reporting to document the rise of incidents of hate crimes relating to COVID-19, including holding the perpetrators of those crimes, incidents or threats accountable and bringing such perpetrators to justice, including investigation and prosecution; and

WHEREAS, 4CD calls on the Attorney General to work with State and local agencies and Asian American and Pacific Islander community-based organizations to prevent discrimination, and expand culturally competent and linguistically appropriate education campaigns on public reporting of hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, 4CD calls on the Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Herrera, in coordination with the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force and Asian American and Pacific Islander community-based organizations to issue guidance describing best practices to mitigate racially discriminatory language in describing the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the 4CD Governing Board wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of APIs to show they are not alone, and that they must speak out to help stop the spread of bigotry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 4CD Governing Board denounces discrimination, xenophobia and micro-aggressions against APIs and does not support the rhetoric and racist remarks regarding the COVID-19 virus. We proudly join cities, counties, states and other organizations across the country in reaffirming our commitment to combat hate crimes targeting the API community.

ADOPTED this 24th day of March 2021, by the 4CD Governing Board.

AYES: (Student Trustee Advisory Vote – aye); Mr. Li – aye; Dr. Walters – aye; Mr. Sandoval – aye; Mr. Márquez – aye; Ms. Barrett – aye)

NOES: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

Approved:



Andy Li, President
4CD Governing Board

Attested to:



Fernando Sandoval, Secretary
4CD Governing Board