

A Resolution Denouncing Hate Crimes and Bigotry Targeting Asian Americans and Pacific
Islanders
Resolution 01-031821

WHEREAS, The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and The Chinese for Affirmative Action organization launched a hate incident-reporting website entitled “Stop AAPI Hate,” at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in March of 2020, which documents over 2,800 hate incidents against Asian-American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in 2020, and over 700 of these incidents occurred in the Bay Area of California; and,

WHEREAS, On February 13, 2021, a 36 year old Asian American man was spat on and called racial slurs while dining outside on Castro Street in downtown Mountain View in what is deemed as a hate crime; and the same perpetrator harassed Asian American store employees while stealing from a store in downtown Mountain View; and,

WHEREAS, On January 30, 2021, 84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee, an 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 February 3, 2021, a 64 year old woman was assaulted and robbed of her purse in broad daylight in the parking lot of the Dai Thanh Supermarket in downtown San Jose; and,

WHEREAS, Approximately 27% of the Mountain View Whisman School District’s students identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander; and,

WHEREAS, Xenophobic attacks targeting Asian American elders around the Bay Area increased again just before Lunar New Year; and,

WHEREAS, These reports depict a disturbing reality, especially for Asian women, who experience violence nearly 2.5 times more than their male counterparts. However, the numbers do not tell the full story: They don’t include many of the unreported and increasingly normalized incidents of violence; and,

WHEREAS, Racism and anti-AAPI sentiments have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and perpetuated by the incendiary language used by former President Trump, who characterized this global pandemic as the “Chinese virus”; and,

WHEREAS, Politically charged and culturally insensitive rhetoric referring to COVID-19 as the “Chinese virus” or “kung flu” further encourages racism, prejudice, and hate crimes against AAPIs; and,

WHEREAS, Racism toward AAPIs has existed since AAPIs began immigrating to the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the assaults against Filipino farmworkers in the 1930s by white mobs, and the Japanese internment camps of the 1940s; and,

WHEREAS, The recent rise of violence against Asian Americans is part of a larger history of violence against communities of color; we must work together to create community centered solutions that stop the violence in all communities; and,

WHEREAS, The model minority myth continues to divide communities of color, feed into racism, and contributes to the false notion that the AAPI community does not experience racial oppression or is impacted by white supremacy, which ignores the AAPI community’s experience with islamophobia, anti-Arab racism, and anti-South Asian violence, especially post 9/11; and,

WHEREAS, The model minority myth also creates the stereotype that the AAPI community is a monolithic group, a stereotype that erases the economic, academic and social struggles of our diverse communities (i.e. Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Southeast Asians, Arab-Americans, mixed-race Asians/Hapas, undocumented Asians, Hmong students, etc.), which is why this resolution also forcefully condemns the ideology of the model minority myth and dispels it due to its role in hindering solidarity amongst communities of color; and,

WHEREAS, the Mountain View Whisman Board of Trustees stands with the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community and wishes to affirm its commitment to the safety and wellbeing of AAPI students, staff and community members and to ensure they know they are not alone and that they can speak out to help stop the spread of bigotry;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain View Whisman Board of Trustees calls on all residents and leaders to join us in condemning racist attacks against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in all forms, and renews our commitment to: 1) speak out against such attacks; 2) defend and protect those targeted; and, 3) seek justice and accountability for those who commit hate crimes against AAPI members of our community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mountain View Whisman Board of Trustees denounces hate crimes, hateful rhetoric, and hateful acts against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and continues to work to ensure that AAPI students feel safe and welcome, both during this COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS by the Mountain View Whisman Governing Board on March 18, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

I, Laura Ramirez Berman, Clerk of the Governing Board of the Mountain View Whisman School District, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a meeting thereof held at its regular place of meeting on the date shown above and by the vote above stated.

Clerk of the Board of Education