

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM**

Petitioner: Yolanda T. King, County Manager

Recommendation:

Approve, adopt, and authorize the Chair to sign a resolution condemning and combatting racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders. (For possible action)

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund #:	N/A	Fund Name:	N/A
Fund Center:	N/A	Funded PGM/Grant:	N/A
Amount:	N/A		
Description:	N/A		
Additional Comments:	N/A		

BACKGROUND:

Clark County’s support for inclusion and belonging for people of all races, national origins, and ethnicities is critical to guaranteeing the safety and security of the American people.

During the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), inflammatory and xenophobic rhetoric has put Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) persons, families, communities, and businesses at risk. Some national leaders have used divisive and inflammatory rhetoric, referring at times to COVID-19 as “the China virus.” The rhetoric is reminiscent of the late 1800s, when Chinese Americans were deemed the “yellow peril,” despite living in the United States for years. Such statements have stoked unfounded fears and perpetuated stigma about AAPIs.

Scientists have confirmed that COVID-19 does not respect borders and is not caused by ethnicity, and the World Health Organization (WHO) has cautioned against using geographic descriptors because they can fuel ethnic discrimination. With COVID-19 still spreading, numerous AAPIs have reported experiencing microaggressions, racial profiling, hate incidents, and in some cases, hate violence.

At the March 16, 2021 Clark County Board of County Commissioners (County Commission) meeting, the County Commission discussed the issue of racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against AAPIs. Staff was directed to prepare a resolution condemning and combatting racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against AAPIs. The Clark County Asian-American Pacific Islanders Community Commission (AAPICC) expressed support of the resolution at the March 16, 2021 County Commission meeting.

Through the passage of this resolution, Clark County denounces intolerance, xenophobia, and anti-Asian sentiment and supports the AAPICC in such efforts to combat intolerance, xenophobia, and anti-Asian sentiment. Furthermore, Clark County joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of AAPIs and in combatting hate crimes targeting AAPIs. Clark County will continue its efforts to protect residents and victims of hate crimes.

ACTION: APPROVED (RESOLUTION NO. R-4-6-21-4) AS RECOMMENDED.

Cleared for Agenda

04/06/2021

File ID#

21-449

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF CLARK CONDEMNING AND COMBATTING RACISM,
XENOPHOBIA, AND INTOLERANCE AGAINST ASIAN-AMERICANS AND
PACIFIC ISLANDERS**

WHEREAS, Clark County’s support for inclusion and belonging for people of all races, national origins, and ethnicities is critical to guaranteeing the safety and security of the American people; and

WHEREAS, during the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), inflammatory and xenophobic rhetoric has put Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) persons, families, communities, and businesses at risk; and

WHEREAS, since the December 2019 outbreak of COVID-19 in Wuhan, China, the infection has grown to more than 119 million confirmed cases and more than 2.6 million deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 29 million cases have been reported in the United States; and

WHEREAS, some national leaders have used divisive and inflammatory rhetoric, referring at times to COVID-19 as “the China virus;” and

WHEREAS, such rhetoric is reminiscent of the late 1800s, when Chinese Americans were deemed the “yellow peril,” despite living in the United States for years; and

WHEREAS, such rhetoric is inaccurate and stigmatizing; and

WHEREAS, such statements have stoked unfounded fears and perpetuated stigma about AAPIs which have contributed to increasing rates of bullying, harassment, acts of violence, and hate crimes against AAPIs; and

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

WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 virus has spread, numerous AAPIs have reported experiencing microaggressions, racial profiling, hate incidents, and in some cases, hate violence; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, the AAPI population in Nevada has grown by 167%; and

WHEREAS, in Clark County, the AAPI community accounts for 10% of the population (200,000 people); and

WHEREAS, at the March 16, 2021 Clark County Board of County Commissioners (Board) meeting, the Clark County Asian-American Pacific Islanders Community Commission (AAPICC) expressed support for a resolution and combatting racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against AAPIs; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of the AAPI community members and ensure they know they are not alone, and they can speak out to help stop the spread of bigotry.

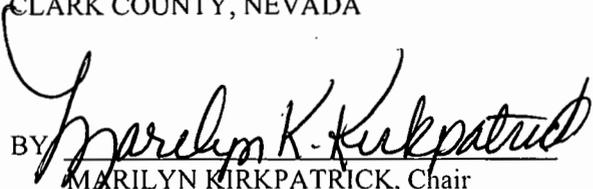
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for Clark County, that the Board, through the passage of this Resolution, that:

1. Clark County denounces intolerance, xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment and supports the AAPICC in such efforts to combat intolerance, xenophobia, and anti-Asian sentiment.
2. Clark County joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of AAPIs and in combating hate crimes targeting AAPIs.
3. Clark County will continue its efforts to protect residents and victims of hate crimes.
4. Clark County calls upon all counties, cities, and local governments across Nevada and the United States to adopt similar commitments to reaffirm their solidarity with AAPIs and commit to combatting hate.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this 6th day of April 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

BY


MARILYN KIRKPATRICK, Chair

ATTEST:


LYNN GOZA, County Clerk