

RESOLUTION NO. 048-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINEZ, AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO STAND AGAINST AND CONDEMN VIOLENCE AND HATE CRIMES AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez affirms its commitment to the well-being and safety of Asian American and Pacific Islander community members and advancing equity and justice for people of all races, national origins, and ethnicities, per Martinez City Council Resolution No. 074-20; and

WHEREAS, since the Gold Rush days of California in the 1800's and with a notable resurgence since the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in March 2020, harmful and xenophobic rhetoric related to the geographic origins of this disease resulted in a rise in violence and hate crimes against Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals, communities, and businesses throughout California and has further encouraged racism, prejudice, and discrimination against Asian American and Pacific Islanders; and

WHEREAS, between March 19 and December 31, 2020, there have been over 700 reported incidents of racism and discrimination targeting Asian Americans in the San Francisco Bay Area, including incidents of verbal harassment, shunning, denial of access to services and public spaces, and physical assault; however, in recent months, there has been surge in reported attacks throughout the Bay Area, some notable for their violence and cruelty; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our community and throughout the State of California are becoming increasingly concerned about their safety and well-being, given the rise of hate crimes and other racially motivated attacks; and

WHEREAS, politically charged and culturally insensitive rhetoric referring to COVID-19 has further promoted anti-Asian sentiments and exacerbated racism and violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders amid the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, despite these increasing acts of hate and bigotry, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made the City of Martinez more secure throughout its history, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, with an estimated 2 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders throughout our nation serving on the front lines of this crisis as healthcare providers, as first responders, and in other essential roles; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of July 1, 2019, 8.8% of the City of Martinez's population identifies as Asian American or Pacific Islander, which totals an estimated 23 million throughout the country, consisting of Chinese, Asian Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Pakistani, Thai, Hmong, Cambodian, Laotian, Taiwanese, Bangladeshi, Burmese, Nepalese, Indonesian, Sri Lankan, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Guamanian or Chamorro, Tongan; and

WHEREAS, in history and at this moment in time, we acknowledge the multiple harms and trauma that have existed and converged simultaneously in marginalized communities of all backgrounds in our community; and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 1882, the Chinese-American community in Martinez was subjected to a violent race riot, resulting in the deaths of several Chinese Americans and the expulsion of the Chinese American community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez affirms its support of and commitment to the well-being, safety, and security of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Martinez hereby resolves as follows:

1. That the City of Martinez condemns racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
2. That the City of Martinez denounces and will not tolerate hate crimes, hateful rhetoric, or hateful acts against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
3. The City of Martinez joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and in combating violence and hate crimes targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
4. The City of Martinez will acknowledge historical wrongs committed against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and endeavor to right these wrongs by taking actions including but not limited to:
 - a. Annually recognizing April 26 as Riot Remembrance Day in the City Calendar;
 - b. Placing signage at the corner of Main and Estudillo Streets, marking the site of the 1882 anti-Chinese race riot.

- c. The condemnation of the illegal internment of Japanese American citizens and families by remembering such racist actions on a date to be determined by the City of Martinez.

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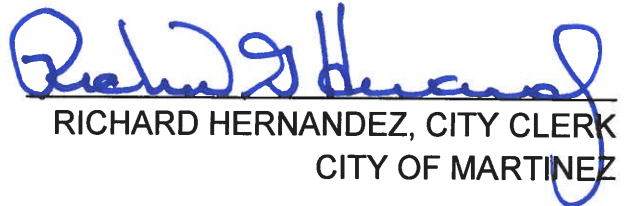
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Martinez at a Regular Meeting of said Council held on the 5th day of May, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Lara DeLaney, Mark Ross, Brianne Zorn;
Vice Mayor Debbie McKillop, Mayor Rob Schroder

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None


RICHARD HERNANDEZ, CITY CLERK
CITY OF MARTINEZ