

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF  
THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, STRONGLY  
CONDEMNING ALL MANIFESTATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF  
RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, DISCRIMINATION, ANTI-ASIAN  
SENTIMENT, SCAPEGOATING, AND ETHNIC OR RELIGIOUS  
INTOLERANCE AIMED AT ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC  
ISLANDERS.**

**WHEREAS**, there are 23,000,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders ("AAPI") in the United States, constituting 7 percent of the population of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, over 2,000,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are working on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic as first responders and in health care, law enforcement, transportation, supermarkets, and other service industries; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (the "WHO") and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the "CDC") recognize that naming COVID-19 using geographic terms or linking it to a specific ethnicity perpetuates stigma; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 27, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services stated, "Ethnicity is not what causes the novel coronavirus" and that it is inappropriate and inaccurate to call COVID-19 "the Chinese virus"; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of inflammatory and xenophobic anti-Asian rhetoric during the COVID-19 pandemic has put Asian American persons, families, communities, and businesses at risk and has resulted in Asian Americans being harassed, assaulted, scapegoated, and murdered; and

**WHEREAS**, since January 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of hate crimes and incidents against those of Asian descent in all 50 States and the District of Columbia; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a recent report, there were nearly 3,800 reported cases of anti-Asian discrimination related to COVID-19 between March 19, 2020 and February 28, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, experts consider the true number of incidents to be much higher due to underreporting; and

**WHEREAS**, since the start of 2021, there has been a surge in anti-Asian attacks targeting predominantly elderly Asian Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2021, an 84-year-old Thai man, Vicha Ratanapakdee, died from injuries sustained from an unprovoked assault while on his routine morning walk in San Francisco, California; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2021, a series of attacks occurred in Oakland's Chinatown targeting Asian American seniors, and victims included a 60-year-old man and a 55-year old woman, who, in separate incidents, were violently shoved to the ground; and

**WHEREAS**, in February 2021, a 61-year-old Filipino man who was attacked and slashed across his face on a New York City subway, a Filipino woman in her eighties who was punched in an unprovoked attack while riding a trolley in San Diego, and a 52-year-old Asian woman who was attacked and forcefully shoved while waiting in line outside a bakery in Flushing, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, a disproportionate number of attacks, approximately 68 percent, also have been directed at Asian American women, including a hate crime that took place on March 16, 2021, in Atlanta, Georgia, where 8 people, including 6 women of Asian descent, were shot to death at 3 businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent rise of violence against the AAPI community is part of a larger history of violence against communities of color and community-centered solutions must be found that stop the violence in all communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission strongly condemn and denounce acts of racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against AAPI communities and urge everyone to combat racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian Americans and work to ensure that all members of AAPI communities — no matter their background, the language they speak, or their religious beliefs — are treated with dignity and equity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA**, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby strongly condemn all manifestations and expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, anti-Asian sentiment, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious intolerance aimed at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of April, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Gelber, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Commissioner Micky Steinberg)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

2

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney *FA*

*4-13-21*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date