

STATE OF WASHINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Resolution of the Washington State Human Rights Commission Stands in Solidarity with Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington State and the United States to Condemn and Challenge Violence, Harassment, and Hate

WHEREAS the Washington State Human Rights Commission (WSHRC) was established in 1949 by the Washington State Legislature as a state agency responsible for administering and enforcing the Washington Law Against Discrimination; and

WHEREAS the mission of the WSHRC is to eliminate and prevent discrimination in Washington State through the fair application of the law, efficient use of resources, and establishment of productive partnerships in the community; and

WHEREAS The WSHRC stands against hate in all of its forms and recognizes the difficult and tragic Washington state history of racism and violence toward Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI); and

WHEREAS Governor Inslee has stated, "Washington is a place where all people should feel safe and included. This is a welcoming state and I have a zero-tolerance policy for hate and racism. We must all condemn the acts of hate and violence displayed in the rising incidence of anti-Asian hate crimes in both Washington state and across the country;" and

WHEREAS Stop AAPI Hate, a watchdog group tracking anti-Asian hate crimes, identifies Washington as the state with the third highest number of anti-Asian incidents; and

WHEREAS anti-AAPI racism and xenophobia related to the COVID-19 pandemic has put AAPI persons, families, and communities at risk; and

WHEREAS hatred, bigotry, and violence have a devastating impact on all communities; and

WHEREAS the WSHRC remains resolute in its commitment to advancing equal opportunity and building welcoming communities for all people; and

WHEREAS all members of AAPI communities must be treated with dignity and respect where they live, work, and in all other aspects of their lives:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT – the Washington State Human Rights Commission condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent violence, harassment, and acts of hate against AAPI persons and communities. We reaffirm our commitment to combat racism, xenophobia, and other forms of discrimination and hate against all persons and communities living in Washington. The WSHRC further encourages all people to report hate crimes against the AAPI community to their local police department.

Signed and sealed with the official state seal of the State of Washington on the 22nd of April, 2021 at Olympia, WA.

By:

Deborah Cook, Chair

<u>Juadalupe</u> <u>Anner</u> Guadalupe Gamboa, Commissioner Dandog

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James Mohr, Commissioner

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