



RESOLUTION NO. 40763

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS THOMS
2 AND USHKA

3 A RESOLUTION denouncing anti-Asian American and Pacific Islanders (“AAPI”) sentiment due to fears of the COVID-19 pandemic, and affirming the City of
4 Tacoma’s commitment to the well-being and safety of our Asian American
5 communities.

6 WHEREAS the City Council supports the rights and freedoms of all
7 residents of the City and our nation to practice and embrace their heritage and
8 religious traditions without fear of persecution, and

9 WHEREAS the City actively seeks to educate staff and our community on
10 the poisonous effects of expressions of hatred or contempt based on race,
11 religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability,
12 medical condition, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity,
13 and to promote equality, mutual respect, and understanding among all groups and
14 individuals, and

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16 WHEREAS the Washington State Office of Financial Management reports
17 that there are 703,786 Asian American and Pacific Islanders out of a state
18 population of 7,649,844, or 9.2 percent Asian American and Pacific Islanders,
19 contributing greatly to our state and region’s rich and diverse history, and

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21 WHEREAS the AAPI population is more heterogeneous than any other
22 racial group in the United States, with more than 48 ethnicities, over 300 spoken
23 languages, various socioeconomic statuses, immigration histories, cultures, and
24 religions, and
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1 WHEREAS we acknowledge anti-AAPI rhetoric gained intensity and
2 momentum at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and has fanned the flames of
3 hate and led to increased rates of aggression and violence against AAPI
4 communities, and

5 WHEREAS nearly 3,800 incidents of anti-Asian discrimination, harassment,
6 assaults, and civil rights violations were reported to the Stop AAPI Hate Center
7 between March 2020 and February 2021, and

8 WHEREAS, on March 17, 2021, eight individuals, including six women of
9 Asian descent, were murdered at their workplaces in Atlanta, Georgia, and
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11 WHEREAS the City of Tacoma, Washington, stands in sympathy and
12 solidarity with the entire AAPI community, as well as the greater Atlanta area, in
13 condemning these vicious acts of hate and violence, and

14 WHEREAS the City of Tacoma, Washington, maintains that respect for
15 individuals of all races, ethnicities, and national origins is an integral part of our
16 cultural fabric as a city and as a community, and
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18 WHEREAS the City of Tacoma, Washington, condemns discrimination and
19 hate of any kind against members of our community, and declares that our
20 diversity is our greatest strength, and
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22 WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID Data
23 Tracker reports that 2,319,457 cases and more than 533,000 deaths have been
24 confirmed in the United States since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus as of
25 March 16, 2021, and
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1 WHEREAS scientists have confirmed that COVID-19 does not respect
2 borders and is not caused by ethnicity, and we caution against using geographic
3 descriptors because they can fuel ethnic discrimination, and

4 WHEREAS COVID-19 is a public health issue, not a racial one, and the
5 characterization by some national leaders of COVID-19 as a “Chinese virus” only
6 encourages hate crimes and incidents against Asian American and Pacific
7 Islanders at a time when communities should be working to get through this crisis,
8 and

9 WHEREAS, despite these increasing acts of intolerance, Asian Americans
10 and Pacific Islanders have made our nation more secure during the COVID-19
11 pandemic and throughout our history, and

12 WHEREAS an estimated 2 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
13 have served on the front lines of this crisis as healthcare providers, first
14 responders, and in other essential roles, and

15 WHEREAS the City Council wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-
16 being and safety of AAPI community members and ensure they know they are not
17 alone, and that their representatives will speak out to help stop the spread of
18 bigotry, and

19 WHEREAS, in 2014, the City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the
20 City’s membership in the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative, which
21 encourages communities to create more welcoming, immigrant-friendly
22 environments that maximize opportunities for economic growth and cultural vitality,
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WHEREAS the City Council adopted an Equity and Empowerment Framework in 2014 and is committed to equity in service delivery, decision-making and community engagement, including our COVID-19 response, and these continued despicable acts must be condemned, and

WHEREAS, in June 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 40622, which affirms the City Council's dedication and commitment to comprehensive and sustained transformation of all of the institutions, systems, policies, practices, and contracts impacted by systemic racism, and also expresses the City Council's commitment to a comprehensive transformation process that will establish new practices based on community and expert opinion, as well as past reform efforts, centering the voices of those most impacted by systemic racism, and

WHEREAS the statement on Anti-Discrimination and COVID-19, approved by the City Council on April 3, 2020, condemned discrimination of any kind against members of our community; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That the City Council denounces anti-Asian American and Pacific Islanders sentiment; joins local jurisdictions, cities, counties, and the state of Washington in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian American and Pacific Islanders and in combating hate crimes targeting Asian American and



1 Pacific Islanders; and affirms its commitment to providing a safe and welcoming
2 environment for all residents and guests of Tacoma.

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4 Adopted _____

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Mayor

7 Attest:

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City Clerk

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11 Approved as to form:

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City Attorney

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