

A RESOLUTION

24-81

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 6, 2021

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to declare the sense of the Council, and to condemn the strongest terms, that all manifestations of hate crimes against any American regardless of ethnicity, particularly anti-Asian sentiment, racism, discrimination, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious intolerance are denounced.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council Condemning Hate Crimes Against Asian and Pacific Islander Americans Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) Twenty-three million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for 7% of the population of the United States. Asian and Pacific Islander Americans (“AAPI”) are the fastest growing demographic in the United States and reside in every state and in the District of Columbia: they are our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, our family members.

(2) Residents of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage have enriched America in countless ways. AAPI communities contribute to American society in traditional and modern sectors that impact all aspects of our lives.

(3) The District of Columbia is home to 34,944 Asian American and Pacific Islander residents.

(4) The use of anti-Asian rhetoric related to COVID-19 such as “Kung-flu” or “Chinese virus” has perpetuated anti-Asian sentiment and stigma.

(5) Since January 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of hate crimes against Asian Americans and that many crimes go unreported or are not classified as hate crimes.

(6) Increased use of anti-Asian rhetoric has resulted in Asian-American businesses being targeted for robbery and vandalism.

(7) Since March 2020, 140 hate incidents have been reported against Asian Americans across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

(8) Across America, 3,292 incidents of hate toward the Asian community have occurred in 2020, and that there have been an additional 503 incidents reported in 2021.

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

(9) Thirty-one percent of Asian Americans report having experienced racial slurs since the beginning of the pandemic.

(10) On March 17, 2021, there was another horrific mass shooting, this time in Atlanta, Georgia, killing 8 people, 6 of whom were women of Asian descent. In recent weeks, the murder of an 87-year-old Thai immigrant, the brutal assault of a 67-year-old man in San Francisco, and the beating of a 27-year-old young man in Los Angeles also occurred.

(11) The escalating violence against Asian American and Pacific Islanders, culminating in nearly 3,800 incidents over the past year, which includes a disproportionate number of AAPI women, clearly demonstrates that it is essential for the Council to publicly condemn these heinous actions today.

Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Sense of the Council Condemning Hate Crimes Against Asian and Pacific Islander Americans Emergency Approval Resolution be adopted on an emergency basis.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.