

RESOLUTION NO. 20-52

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALY CITY
TO DENOUNCE STIGMATIZATION, HATEFUL RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA DURING
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Whereas, fear and uncertainty around COVID-19, coupled with hateful political rhetoric at the federal level, has led to a sharp increase in violence, hateful acts of racism and stigmatization of groups of people, notably Asian Americans; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that attaching locations or ethnicity to the disease is dangerous. The official name for the disease was deliberately chosen to avoid stigmatization – the “co” stands for Corona, “vi” for virus and “d” for disease, and 19 for the emergence of the disease in 2019. It is not a “Chinese virus,” “Asian virus” or “Wuhan virus”; and

Whereas, stigmatization represents a serious threat to our collective emergency response to the pandemic. It furthers dangerous and false information about how COVID-19 spreads, misinforms people’s perception of risk and repeats mistakes in our own history during past emergencies when racist and xenophobic sentiment targeted vulnerable groups; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asserts that stigma associated with COVID-19 may currently be affecting persons of Asian descent, people who have traveled, and emergency responders or healthcare professionals; and

Whereas, incidents of hate against Asian Americans is increasingly documented in the Bay Area and backlash against medical workers has occurred on social media in Daly City; and

Whereas, Asian Americans, immigrants and health care workers cannot be made the scapegoats of COVID-19 and Asian Americans do not represent a greater risk of spreading COVID-19; and

Whereas, medical personnel that are on the front lines in caring for patients with COVID-19 – our neighbors, our relatives and our friends – must be provided our unwavering support, as they sacrifice so much to continue to work through the pandemic; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization (WHO) states that stigmatized groups may be subjected to social avoidance or rejection, denials of healthcare, education, housing or employment, and physical violence, and also indicates that stigma can result in more severe health problems and difficulties controlling a disease outbreak by driving people to hide the illness to avoid discrimination, preventing people from seeking health care immediately, and discouraging them from adopting healthy behaviors; and

Whereas, Daly City as immigrant community – more than half of our population is foreign born and more than half is of Asian descent – draws its strength from its highly diverse population. Daly City routinely celebrates its cultural diversity and is now extremely concerned for the well-being of our residents that might be facing discrimination; and

Whereas, the Stop-AAPI-Hate center has gathered over 1,000 reports of anti-Asian discrimination in just over one week. Established by San Francisco State University Asian

American Studies, Chinese for Affirmative Action, and the Asian Pacific Planning and Policy Council, it continues to receive about 100 incidents a day; and

Whereas, these incidents ranges from shunning and verbal harassment to workplace discrimination and physical assault. A large percent involves spitting and coughing at Asian Americans. The reports reveal the virulent anger and hostility now directed at Asian Americans; and

Whereas, the City will launch a campaign with local businesses to boost awareness of stigma and create messaging related to tolerance by encouraging businesses to display the “Daly City Stands United Against Hate” posters in their storefronts; and

Whereas, the City will continue to promote anti-stigma messaging on all communication channels, including the website, social media, upcoming COVID-19 resource mailers to residents and businesses, PSA videos and more; and

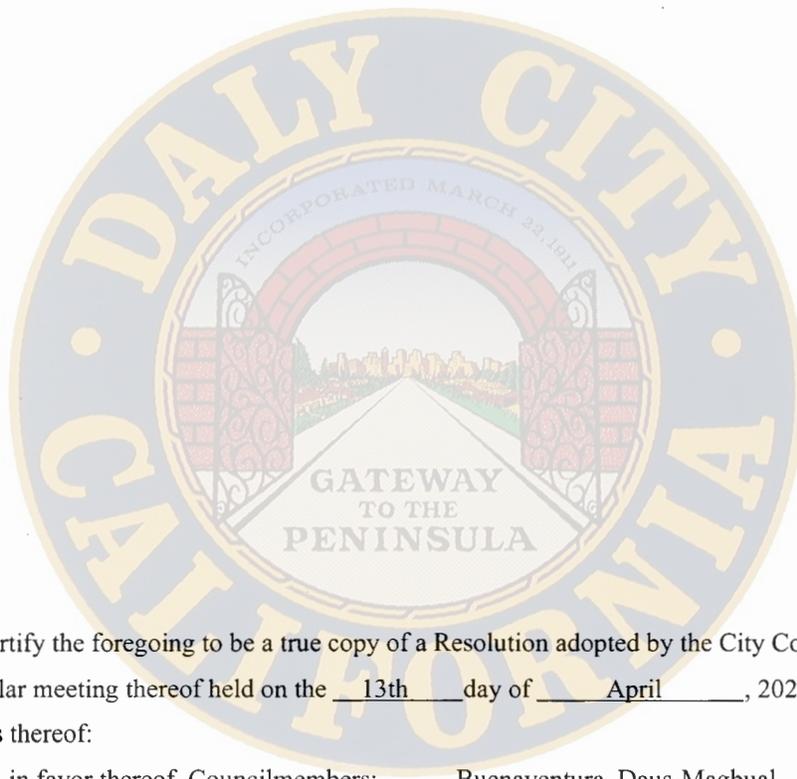
Whereas, the Police Department will continue to closely monitor incidents of hate crimes and other violence and discrimination against Asian Americans, immigrants and health care workers as the pandemic progresses; and

Whereas, the City has a duty to speak out against all forms of discrimination and especially now, as stigmatization of our fellow Americans during the pandemic will only hurt our recovery efforts; and

Whereas, we commend the diverse population of Daly City, which has long espoused a tolerant perspective and routinely celebrates the diversity our fellow residents. Daly City stands united against hate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Daly City that it does hereby denounce stigmatization, hateful racism and xenophobia during the covid-19 pandemic, against particular groups of people, notably Asian Americans, immigrants and health care workers.

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I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the City Council of Daly City, California, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 13th day of April, 2020, by the following vote of the members thereof:

AYES, and in favor thereof, Councilmembers: Buenaventura, Daus-Magbual,
DiGiovanni, Manalo, Sylvester

NOES, Councilmembers: None

Absent, Councilmembers: None


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF DALY CITY

APPROVED:

GLENN R. SYLVESTER
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DALY CITY