



Board of Supervisors

Memorandum

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March 19, 2021

To: Clerk of the Board

From: Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, 5th District

CLERK OF THE BOARD
ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Subject: Board Resolution: "County of Orange Stands in Solidarity to Denounce All Hate Crimes"

Please add the attached Board Resolution to the supplemental calendar for the March 23, 2021 Board meeting agenda. The title of the item should read:

Supervisor Bartlett:

Board Resolution: "County of Orange Stands in Solidarity to Denounce All Hate Crimes."

Supervisor Lisa Bartlett

Chair Andrew Do

COUNTY OF ORANGE STANDS IN SOLIDARITY TO DENOUNCE ALL HATE CRIMES

By the authority of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the following resolution is hereby issued:

WHEREAS, Orange County is home to a wonderfully diverse community, including people of every race, color, ancestry, religion, etc., and as any act of hate committed against one person in Orange County is an act against our community as a whole, the Orange County Board of Supervisors stands in solidarity on behalf of all Orange County residents and people of goodwill to denounce all hate crimes, hateful rhetoric, and hateful acts against any sector of our society; and

WHEREAS, the County of Orange has the third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander population in the nation, representing over 20% of Orange County, and in the face of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the County has experienced an alarming upsurge in anti-Asian sentiment, as OC Human Relations found a 10-fold increase in hate incidences and crimes in 2020 against Asian Americans in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric related to COVID-19 have perpetuated anti-Asian stigma, often resulting in Asians and Asian Americans being blamed for the pandemic, verbally harassed and physically assaulted, including hate crimes resulting in severe bodily injury and even death; and

WHEREAS, numerous Asian American community members have sought mental health services due to depression and anxiety related to the pandemic, as the ongoing surge in hate crimes has also resulted in more Asian Americans with high depression and suicide ideation; and

WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) groups, including Asian immigrants, were part of and contributed greatly to the economic vitality and rich history of Orange County, and have continued to make valuable contributions to our community during the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Asian Americans, BIPOC communities in Orange County include, but are not limited to, Black and African American, Hispanic and Latino, Indigenous and Native American, Muslim, Arab, Middle Eastern, Jewish, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, among others; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Board of Supervisors is committed to working with local law enforcement and prosecutors, including the Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Office of the Orange County District Attorney, to bring the full weight of government to address this issue and confront all hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Board of Supervisors further directs the OC Human Relations Commission to publish data summaries of reported hate crimes and incidents on its website on a monthly basis and, with stakeholder input from all of the aforementioned communities, submit written recommendations for addressing all race-based hate crimes and incidents in Orange County to our Board within 60 days;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, on behalf of all Orange County residents, does hereby stand in solidarity to denounce all hate crimes, hateful rhetoric, and hateful acts against Asian Americans and all other marginalized communities, reaffirms its commitment to ensure that Asian Americans feel safe and welcome during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, and urges all municipalities to join the County of Orange in increasing anti-hate public awareness and hate crime incident reporting in Orange County.

Dated this 23rd Day of May 2021