

Resolution No. 81-2021

By Council Member B. Jones

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Condemning all manner of racism, xenophobia, hate speech, intolerance, and discrimination in the City of Cleveland, especially against Asians and Asian American Pacific Islanders during this pandemic, and calling upon the Ohio Department of Health and the City Health Department to incorporate anti-racism messaging in its public education and digital messaging.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a public health crisis that has magnified the inequities that plague our society; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has led to racially motivated and discriminatory responses which disproportionately affect marginalized groups in the United States; and

WHEREAS, during the pandemic, inflammatory, xenophobic, and racist rhetoric has put Asians and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) persons, families, communities, and businesses at risk; and

WHEREAS, people of Asian descent have experienced individual acts of violence and aggression, and Asian-owned businesses have had a significant decline in customers for months as a result of unfounded coronavirus fears; and

WHEREAS, this Council condemns all acts of racism and intolerance against anyone in America, and at this time, particularly denounces racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against AAPI communities; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that regular outreach, virtual town halls, and consultation with AAPI community organizations and leaders to engage in authentic relationships with impacted communities can help address COVID-19 related discrimination; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council condemns all manner of racism, xenophobia, hate speech, intolerance, and discrimination in the City, especially against Asians and Asian American Pacific Islanders during this pandemic, and calls upon the Ohio Department of Health and the City Health Department to incorporate anti-racism messaging in its public education and digital messaging.

Section 2. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

BJ:rns
2/3/2021

