

RESOLUTION NO.____(CM)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE
DENOUNCING HATE CRIMES AND BIGOTRY TARGETING ASIAN
AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS**

WHEREAS, nearly 3.02% of Watsonville’s population is of Asian descent and 0.03% of Pacific Islander descent; and

WHEREAS, the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community of Watsonville make significant contributions to the cultural, educational, and economic fabric of our community; and

WHEREAS, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, harmful and xenophobic rhetoric related to the geographic origins of this disease have resulted in a rise in reported hate incidents and crimes against Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals, communities and businesses throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, and Chinese for Affirmative Action, launched a hate incident-reporting internet website, titled “Stop AAPI Hate, in March 2020, which documented over 2,800 hate incidents targeting Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the United States with over 700 of these incidents occurring in the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, AAPI communities are immensely diverse, consisting of multiple ethnicities, hundreds of languages and dialects, wide-ranging socioeconomic characteristics, and distinct immigration patterns; and

WHEREAS, anti-Asian hate has erupted throughout American history, inflamed by labor pressures, international conflicts, or economic issues, sometimes resulting in racist

government acts, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in communities around our nation there have been horrific incidents against members of the AAPI community, including assaults, slashings, and deaths; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2021, eight people were shot and killed in Atlanta, Georgia, six of whom were Asian women; and

WHEREAS, these reports depict a disturbing reality, especially for Asian women, who experienced violence nearly two and a half times more than their male counterparts; however, the numbers do not tell the full story, as they don't include the unreported and increasingly normalized incidents of violence; and

WHEREAS, the recent rise of violence against the AAPI community is part of a larger history of violence against communities of color, and we must work together to create community centered solutions that stop the violence in all communities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Watsonville unanimously passed on November 10th 2020, a resolution of the City Council of the City Of Watsonville formally apologizing for the actions taken by the City's residents against the Filipinos in Watsonville, particularly in the 1920s and 1930s, and commending these Filipino nationals and their children, the Filipino Americans for their notable accomplishments and contributions to the Pájaro Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Council hereby denounces hate crimes and bigotry targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

2. That the City of Watsonville calls on all residents and leaders to join in condemning racist attacks against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in all forms, and renew our commitment to speak against such attacks, defend and protect those targeted, and seek justice and accountability against those who commit hate crimes against AAPI members of our community.
