

Resolution
Combating COVID-19-related Hate

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor, and

WHEREAS, according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, as of May 20, 2020, nearly five million cases and more than three hundred thousand COVID-19 related deaths have been confirmed worldwide, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over one and a half million cases and more than ninety thousand deaths have been reported in the United States as of May 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus has infected people from all racial, national and ethnic backgrounds, it will not be stopped by political boundaries, it was not created or caused by any nation, race or ethnicity, and the World Health Organization has cautioned against using geographic descriptors that can fuel ethnic and racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is fully committed to the safety, security, and equal treatment of its residents as it confronts the COVID-19 pandemic and seeks to promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms; and

WHEREAS, as our history has shown, times of great fear, uncertainty and unrest can lead to the demonization, blaming, and scapegoating of groups as the “other”; and

WHEREAS, hate crimes and hate related incidents, discrimination, and aggression against Asians, Pacific Islanders and Jews are on the rise throughout the country as extremist groups have used COVID-19 to promote hateful ideologies, including and Sinophobia anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and racism, and have blamed Asian and Jewish communities for the outbreak and spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a public health issue, not a racial, religious or ethnic one, and the deliberate use of terms such as “Chinese virus” or “Kung Fu virus” to describe COVID-19 only encourages hate crimes and incidents against Asians and further spreads misinformation at a time when communities should be working together to get through this crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish community has also been targeted with blame, hate, antisemitic tropes and conspiracy theories about their creating, spreading and profiting from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the City of Los Angeles take leadership and stand in solidarity with its Asian and Jewish communities to send a message that discriminatory and hate-motivated behavior or violence will not be tolerated, and all persons are encouraged to report any such anti-Semitic or discriminatory incidents to the proper authorities for investigation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of its Asian and Jewish community members, ensure they know they are not alone, and that the City of Los Angeles is committed to ending the spread of all forms of hate and bigotry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State and Federal Legislative Programs SUPPORT for administrative and/or legislative action to denounce anti-Asian bigotry, anti-Semitism and all hateful speech, violent action and the spread of misinformation related to COVID-19 that casts blame, promotes racism or discrimination or harms the Los Angeles Asian and Pacific Islander, Jewish, immigrant or other communities; coordinate with cities, counties and states across the country in affirming our commitment to the safety and well-being of all community members, including the Asian and Jewish communities; seeks to protect residents and victims of hate, and enhances prosecutions to curb hate acts related to COVID-19 and supports the inalienable rights of all people in our community who should be treated with respect and must remain safe during this pandemic.

PRESENTED BY:



DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:

BOB BLUMENFIELD (verbal)
Councilmember, 3rd District