

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ISSAQUAH, WASHINGTON, REJECTING RACIALLY BASED BIAS, HARASSMENT AND HATE CRIMES DUE TO COVID-19.

WHEREAS, since the outbreak of COVID-19, immigrant and refugee community leaders and civil rights organizations have reported a regional and national increase in bias, harassment, and hate crimes, particularly against Asian American and Pacific Islander, Black and African American, Hispanic and Latino, and other marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, misinformation about coronavirus propagates fear that hurts people and impairs the ability of first responders and other City services to provide necessary response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with the City's mission to "foster a safe, vibrant, livable, and inclusive community" the City desires 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, the City has a history of acknowledging these values through the issuance of resolutions and proclamations celebrating tolerance and cultural diversity, rejecting discrimination, and proclaiming the City a Hate Free Zone, beginning with Resolution No. 2002-09; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the City has actively shared factual COVID-19 information and anti-stigma messages and resources to the community through its communication channels; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to further demonstrate its commitment to inclusivity given the abuses occurring during the COVID-19 outbreak; NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ISSAQUAH, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Statement. The City of Issaquah rejects racially based bias, harassment, discrimination, and hate crimes due to COVID-19 and denounces all COVID-19-related misnaming, blaming and harassment based on race, ethnicity, place of origin, physical ability, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or religion.

The City commits to promoting an inclusive community and urges those in our community to treat each other with respect and work together to overcome all expressions of hate and bigotry.

Section 2. Reporting. The City of Issaquah encourages community members who observe or are experiencing incidents of discrimination, harassment, or hate crimes to report the incident to the Washington State Human Rights Commission (1-800-233-3247) or to call 911 in emergency circumstances.

PASSED by the City Council this 1st day of June, 2020.

DocuSigned by:
Victoria Hunt
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VICTORIA HUNT, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED by the Mayor this 1st day of June, 2020.

DocuSigned by:
Mayor Pauly
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MARY LOU PAULY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:



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CHRISTINE L. EGGERS, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DocuSigned by:



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JAMES E. HANEY, CITY ATTORNEY

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AGENDA BILL NO: AB 7980