

**RESOLUTION NO. 20200409-076**

**WHEREAS**, the United States has a rich history of immigration from nations all over the world, creating diverse communities in cities throughout the country, including in Austin, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Chinese and Asian Americans have been immigrating to the United States since the 1600s; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian Americans have long been members of the Austin community and by the time of the 1875 Census, 20 Chinese people were living in Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, Asians in Austin are the fastest growing demographic group, doubling roughly every 12 years; and

**WHEREAS**, 161,000 Asians and/or Asian Americans live in our Metropolitan Statistical Area (2018 American Community Survey) and more than 22 million Asian Americans live in the United States today, making invaluable contributions to our economy, our social and political life, and our culture; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has a dark history of racist anti-Asian policies, including the Page Act of 1875, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Immigration Act of 1924, and the Japanese American internment during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout American history Asian Americans have been the victims of xenophobic acts of violence and hate, including the murders of Vincent Chin, Naoki Kamijima and Srinivas Kuchibhotla; and

**WHEREAS**, while hate crimes may target individuals, the psychological and social impacts affect the entire community; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been a hateful backlash toward Chinese and Asian Americans in the form of hate crimes and discrimination since the spread of COVID-19 in the United States and in Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, the deliberate use of terms like “Chinese virus” has promulgated racism towards Chinese and Asian Americans and further spreads misinformation about the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic Austin confronts requires our entire community to have trust and faith in our institutions to manage and resolve this crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, we, as elected representatives, have a special responsibility not to stay silent in the face of hatred, violence, or discrimination against any of our constituents; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The City Council of Austin condemns all hateful speech, violent action, racism, and misinformation directed at Chinese Americans, Asian Americans, and

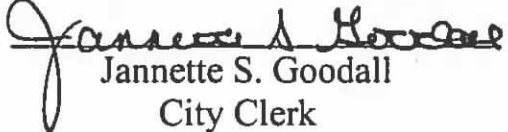
Chinese- and Asian-owned businesses, particularly reactions due to misinformation spread about the relationship between China and the COVID-19 virus.

The City Council of Austin asks residents to join us in calling attention to these harms and denouncing hate to help keep all Austinites safe during this unprecedented pandemic and beyond.

The City Council of Austin commits to pursuing a policy agenda that affirms civil and human rights, and ensures that those targeted on the basis of race, nationality, religion, or immigration status can turn to government without fear of recrimination.

The City Council of Austin affirms the value of a pluralistic society, the beauty of a culture composed of multiple cultures, and promoting an anti-racist culture that stands in solidarity with those who experience hate, violence, and prejudice.

ADOPTED: April 9, 2020

ATTEST:   
Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk