

**CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT
AS RELATED TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK
May 13, 2020**

WHEREAS, 23 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for 7 percent of the population in the United States; in South San Francisco alone, more than one-third of the total population of nearly 67,000 is of Asian descent; and

WHEREAS, more than 2 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are risking their lives every day and working on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic in health care, law enforcement, first response, and transportation, as well as service industries including grocery stores; and

WHEREAS, due to the increased use of anti-Asian rhetoric stemming from misinformation worldwide, the safety of the Asian American community has been threatened, leading to a dramatic increase in reports of hate crimes and incidents against those of Asian descent; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent study, there were more than 400 cases of anti-Asian discrimination related to COVID-19 between February 9, 2020, and March 7, 2020, and the numbers are sadly growing; and

WHEREAS, Asian American businesses have been targeted for vandalism, and Asian American and Pacific Islander older adults, in particular those who are recent immigrants with limited English proficiency, are now facing greater challenges of discrimination due to the anti-Asian rhetoric; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization in 2015 issued guidelines calling on media outlets, scientists, and national authorities to avoid naming infectious diseases for locations to avoid stigmatizing groups of people; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2020, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services declared, “Ethnicity is not what causes the novel coronavirus” and that is it inappropriate and inaccurate to call COVID-19 the “Chinese virus”; and

WHEREAS, U.S. House Representative Grace Meng (D-NY) has introduced a resolution, and Senators Kamala Harris of California, Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, and Mazie Hirono of Hawaii, are introducing companion resolutions that urge public officials to denounce anti-Asian sentiment, racism, discrimination, and religious intolerance related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, to date, 50 scientific and professional organizations have endorsed U.S. House and Senate Resolutions in support of the contributions of Asian ancestry; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Richard Garbarino and the City Council of the City of South San Francisco do hereby condemn all manifestations or expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, anti-Asian sentiment, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious intolerance not only in South San Francisco but throughout the nation and call upon our community and all public officials to denounce anti-Asian sentiment in any form.

Richard Garbarino, Mayor

Mark Addiego, Vice Mayor

Karyl Matsumoto, Councilmember

Mark Nagales, Councilmember

Buenaflor Nicolas, Councilmember