

**Resolution of support for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) residents and condemning racism and discrimination in all its forms. (Board of Commissioners)**

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners has demonstrated a long-standing record of promoting racial equity, inclusion and diversity in all aspects of county government. This commitment has been exemplified through the development and execution of the Rise Together Blueprint to Reduce Poverty in Franklin County, historic investments in racial equity training, and codified through its Declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners most recently established racial equity as a core principle of the board via Resolution 793-20 on November 17, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, over 70,000 AAPI residents live in Franklin County, according to 2019 U.S. Census Bureau estimates, and contribute tremendously to the economic and cultural vitality of Central Ohio; and

**WHEREAS**, anti-Asian racism and hate has long been a stain on our nation's history, from legislation like the Page Act or Chinese Exclusion Act passed in the late 1800's to the U.S. Supreme Court's Korematsu decision, which provided legal grounds for detaining over 120,000 Japanese-Americans in internment camps during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, inflammatory, xenophobic, and racist rhetoric targeting Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders has intensified in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and hate crimes targeting Asian people in America's biggest cities increased 150 percent in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the coalition Stop AAPI Hate reports there have been nearly 3,800 hate-fueled incidents against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in the U.S. since March 2020 — a number the group says is probably a fraction of the true number; and

**WHEREAS**, AAPI women were the targets of more than 68 percent of documented reports of anti-Asian harassment and violence since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic; and

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**WHEREAS**, the horrific attack in Georgia on March 16, 2021, is yet another wakeup call for our nation to collectively address hate wherever it exists. It is time we address as a county, state and nation the intersection of racism, bigotry, xenophobia and sexism, that is impacting AAPI communities and other communities of color at the hands of white supremacy; and

**WHEREAS**, hatred and discrimination that targets any group is an attack on our entire community and must therefore be condemned wherever and whenever they arise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

1. That this Board of Commissioners stands in solidarity with Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) residents, families, and businesses, and condemns anti-Asian hate, racism, and discrimination in all its forms.
2. That the Board encourages every Franklin County resident to condemn anti-Asian bias, seek opportunities to experience and learn about cultures other than their own, review their practices that may contribute to systemic racism, and in these ways work to create a more welcoming, inclusive, anti-racist community.
3. That the Board of Commissioners calls on the governor and the Ohio General Assembly to declare racism a public health crisis and support the creation of a state commission for Asian American and Pacific Islander affairs.

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cc: Commissioners  
All county agencies