Township Council
c/o Township Clerk
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Meeting: 03/25/21 07:00 PM
Department: Township Clerk
Category: Council-Listed Items
DOC ID: 6524

INFORMATION ITEM (ID # 6524)

Proposed Resolution: Declaring Solidarity with Asian, Asian-American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Communities - Mayor Dunleavy & Councilman Kaplan

WHEREAS, hate crimes motivated by anti-Asian sentiment have jumped 1,900% in New York City in 2020 and almost 3,000 reports of anti-Asian discrimination between March 19 and December 31, 2020 have been recorded by the Stop AAPI Hate; and

WHEREAS, racially-motivated assaults and harassment targeting of AAPI seniors have dramatically increased, including the recent attack and subsequent tragic death of 84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee in San Francisco on January 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, in response to the xenophobic and inflammatory rhetoric about COVID-19 President Joseph R. Biden Jr. issued an Executive Order on January 26, 2021 during the first week of his administration; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Teaneck on March 26, 2019 unanimously passed a resolution rejecting hate within the Township of Teaneck; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wish to support measures at the municipal and state level to combat the insidious and persistent impact of racism,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council to:

1. Condemn and denounce racism, xenophobia and intolerance in all forms.

2. Call on public officials in other municipalities and at the county and state levels to condemn and denounce racism, xenophobia and intolerance in all forms and stand with us in solidarity with AAPI communities.

3. Continue to promote and advocate for equality and equity through all policies approved by the Mayor and Council.

4. Recognize the dedication of AAPI frontline medical workers, teachers, police and fire officers and essential workers. They along with their colleagues show up to work everyday so that our society can still function. The strain of COVID is particularly heavy for AAPI essential workers because they have been personally attacked for their ethnicity in the midst of providing essential services.

5. Continue to advocate locally and through the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, New Jersey Conference of Mayors and all other appropriate associations for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color.

6. Support local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.

7. Further work to solidify alliances and partnerships with other organizations that are confronting racism and encourage other local, state, regional and national entities to recognize racism as a public health crisis.

8. Support community efforts, including through the Township's Advisory Boards and Forums, to combat discrimination and xenophobia while engaging actively and authentically with communities of color.

9. Strive to be the example of racial, religious and ethnic acceptance

10. Foster an environment of inclusion and acceptance in all Township sanctioned events.

11. Promote and support policies and resources that prioritize the health of all people, such as bystander intervention programs like <https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>.

12. Encourage racial equality among all community partners, vendors and contractors.

13. Call upon Bergen County Executive Tedesco and the Bergen County Board of Commissioners to declare racism as a public health crisis and to ensure equality in all policies in the County of Bergen.

14. Call upon Governor Murphy, State Senate President Sweeney, and State Assembly Speaker Coughlin to also declare racism as a public health crisis and to ensure equality in all policies of the state of New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Murphy, Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Weinberg, Assemblywoman Huttle, Assemblyman Johnson and Bergen County Executive Tedesco, for their review and potential action.

I hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Teaneck at a meeting of said Township Council on March 25, 2021.