

# PROCLAMATION

## THE CITY OF FORT BRAGG STANDS UNITED AGAINST ANTI-ASIAN RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA, REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

**WHEREAS**, twenty three million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for seven percent of the Nation's population in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the 'Stop AAPI Hate' initiative established by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council has collected over 4,000 incidents since the start of the pandemic, with women and the elderly being the primary targets; and

**WHEREAS**, generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed to the history of Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, California and across the country; including the laborers who built our tunnels, connected our coasts, to the patriots who fought overseas, to the estimated two million who worked on the frontlines of this COVID-19 pandemic in health care, law enforcement, first responders, transportation, infrastructure, technology, education, supermarkets, service industries; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of anti-Asian terminology, rhetoric, images related to COVID-19 have perpetuated harmful stereotypes or assumptions; and

**WHEREAS**, such rhetoric and images are inaccurate and strengthen false associations between the disease and other factors, incite widespread fear, xenophobia and discrimination, and may put individuals of Asian Pacific Islander ancestry at risk of harassment, retaliation, and assault; and

**WHEREAS**, racism, hateful speech, and prejudice related to the pandemic not only hurts our efforts to overcome the crisis, it compromises the safety, health, and well-being of our communities. It weakens our collective ability to protect one another and advance toward a healthier future; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fort Bragg stands united against hate and in support of the AAPI community, and encourages residents to show solidarity and support for one another and our neighbors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg, proclaims as follows:

1. The City denounces xenophobia and anti-AAPI sentiment and condemns harmful rhetoric and racist acts arising due to the fears of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The City joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of citizens, non-citizens and visitors with ancestry from the Asia Pacific region and in combating racist acts targeting AAPIs.
3. The City Council encourages the City to partner with community-based organizations, advocacy groups, as well as other appropriate officials and agencies across the county, to protect AAPI residents and victims of discrimination and to curb hate acts for other groups, including, but not limited to, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Muslim, Jewish, and LGBTQ communities, and people with disabilities.

**SIGNED this 12th day of April, 2021**

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**BERNIE NORVELL, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**June Lemos, CMC, City Clerk**

No. 08-2021