

1 [Anti-Asian Hate Crimes - Multiracial Community Health and Safety]

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3 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to take action on anti-Asian**
4 **hate crimes and invest in multiracial community health and safety.**

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6 WHEREAS, Racial discrimination and violence are pervasive and persisting challenges
7 for San Francisco and society as a whole, rooted deeply at an interpersonal and institutional
8 level; and

9 WHEREAS, Combatting racism requires active resistance at both the community
10 organizing and legislative levels; and

11 WHEREAS, Anti-Asian sentiment did not start with the COVID-19 pandemic, but rather
12 has been exacerbated and increased in these circumstances; and

13 WHEREAS, The existence of anti-Asian legislation and anti-Asian sentiment from
14 government leaders has been historically prevalent in the United States from the Chinese
15 Exclusion Act in the 1880s to Japanese Internment in the mid-1900s and leaders calling the
16 COVID-19 virus a “Chinese virus” today; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1982, Vincent Chin, a 27-year-old Chinese-American man, was
18 murdered in Detroit by two white men, who both received no prison time, demonstrating the
19 institutional racism rooted in our criminal justice system; and

20 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, Asian-American students rallied alongside Black student
21 organizers and other Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (“BIPOC”) as part of the Third
22 World Liberation Front to fight for equal education opportunities and ethnic studies at UC
23 Berkeley and San Francisco State University; and

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1 WHEREAS, Asian-American activists like Yuri Kochiyama and Grace Lee Boggs fought
2 for Black social justice movements and pulled insights from Black radical frameworks for
3 Asian liberation; and

4 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a large Asian population at 34.4% compared to 5.9%
5 nationally; and

6 WHEREAS, Asian restaurants and businesses especially in Chinatowns have been
7 disproportionately affected by the economic downturn of the pandemic due to stigmatization,
8 with 22% of all small business-owner activity declining from February to April 2020, but 26%
9 of Asian-American small business-owner activity declining according to the National Bureau of
10 Economic Research; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the San Francisco Police Department’s (“SFPD”) definition, a
12 hate crime is a “criminal act or attempted criminal act”, based on the victim’s “actual or
13 perceived race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender”; and

14 WHEREAS, There have been 2,583 reports of anti-Asian incidents throughout 47
15 states across the United States exclusively from March 2020 to May 2020, with California
16 reporting 46% of the incidents, according to Stop AAPI Hate, a nationwide reporting center on
17 anti-Asian crime and discrimination; and

18 WHEREAS, There have been more than 3,000 hate incidents around the United States
19 reported on the Asian Americans Advancing Justice self-reporting system since late April
20 2020; and

21 WHEREAS, Last year, violent incidents towards Asian-Americans include but are not
22 limited to Jonathan Mok, a 23-year-old Singaporean student who was beat up in London, a
23 39-year-old Asian woman splashed with acid in New York, and an elderly Asian man attacked
24 while collecting cans in San Francisco; and

1 WHEREAS, Recent acts of violence towards Asian-Americans and elderly Asian-
2 Americans, many of which are in the Bay Area, include but are not limited to the murder of
3 Vicha Ratanapakdee, 84-year-old Thai man, in San Francisco, attacks on 3 elderly people
4 alongside 20 other instances in Oakland’s Chinatown within one week, assault and robbery of
5 a 64-year-old Vietnamese grandmother in San Jose, and slashing of Noel Quintana, a 61-
6 year-old Filipino man, in New York City; and

7 WHEREAS, There have been numerous acts of hostility and vandalism towards
8 symbolic monuments for Asian communities such as San Jose’s Japantown granite
9 monument, Lunar New Year statue in downtown San Francisco, and cherry blossom trees in
10 San Francisco’s Japantown; and

11 WHEREAS, Violence towards Asian-Americans and other BIPOC communities has
12 been upheld and exacerbated by law enforcement, as demonstrated with how Christian Hall,
13 a 19-year-old Chinese-American male, was fatally shot by Pennsylvania State Police seven
14 times after they were called to assist him with a mental health crisis in December 2020; and

15 WHEREAS, Asian hate crimes in Bay Area and nationally have incited fear, stress, and
16 anxiety for Asian-Americans particularly in the time around Lunar New Year, a time of
17 celebration and reunion; and

18 WHEREAS, Over 70 Asian organizations across the Bay Area joined together to
19 demand San Francisco, Oakland, and Bay Area leadership to take action condemning and
20 preventing violence towards Asian community members and made clear that an over-reliance
21 on law enforcement approaches has largely been ineffective and has been disproportionately
22 harmful to Black communities and other communities of color; and

23 WHEREAS, Cities like New York and Alameda have established anti-Asian hate crime
24 task forces in response to the increase in anti-Asian crime; and

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1 WHEREAS, Mayor Breed and Ivy Lee, Criminal Justice Policy Advisor, claimed they
2 were in discussion with Assemblymember David Chiu and the SFPD to implement an Asian
3 hate crime task force back in September 2020; and

4 WHEREAS, One in seven (14%) of those who reported anti-Asian crime and
5 discrimination to Stop AAPI Hate were young people under 20 years old; and

6 WHEREAS, A study conducted by the Stop AAPI (Asian-American Pacific Islander)
7 Hate Youth Campaign found that 1 in 4 young Asian Americans under 20 years old have
8 personally experienced anti-Asian hate amid the COVID-19 pandemic; and

9 WHEREAS, Elderly and young people experience ageism in similar ways and face
10 greater discrimination and therefore require more community support and community
11 resources for situations of violence, discrimination, and grief; and

12 WHEREAS, The Black Lives Matter movement have taught us all lessons on justice
13 and accountability when there is little to no justice or accountability to be found in the same
14 criminal legal system and policing apparatus that killed George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and
15 Christian Hall; and

16 WHEREAS, Intersectional anti-racism work is not transactional, and allyship with Black
17 people and other BIPOC communities does not divert attention from aiding Asian
18 communities, so BIPOC must work together towards our collective liberation by dismantling
19 systems that uphold white supremacy; and

20 WHEREAS, Fighting against anti-Asian sentiment encompasses collaboration with
21 Black, Indigenous, Latine, and Pacific Islander communities to find long-term solutions to stop
22 systemic racism, xenophobia, and violence in all our communities; and

23 WHEREAS, As set forth in Youth Commission File No. 1920-AL-13, Urging the
24 Defunding of SFPD and Investment in Community Health and Safety, the Youth Commission
25 has previously urged Mayor Breed and Board of Supervisors to cut the SFPD's budget by at

1 least 50%, with 25% of those cuts going towards a “Community and People Budget” set aside
2 for social and community-centered services; and

3 WHEREAS, The Youth Commission presented to the Police Commission with the
4 recommendation to cut SFPD’s budget, but the Police Commission did not follow this
5 recommendation; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission condemns racially-motivated attacks against
7 the Asian community in the Bay Area, nationally, and globally, and supports the healing of
8 pain and grief Asian communities feel in light of recent events; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission understands that the police
10 violence that killed George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Christian Hall to be systemic, and that
11 the Youth Commission acknowledges that our collective response must also be systemic in
12 nature to transform the systems that produce and reproduce harm and violence; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission supports recent Asian community
14 safety rallies and cross-cultural healing events such as the “Love Our People, Heal Our
15 Communities” Coalition for Community Safety and Justice’s Days of Action on February 13
16 and 14 in San Francisco and Oakland; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission stands with and signs onto the
18 demands of over 70 Asian community organizations for San Francisco and Oakland
19 leadership to:

20 1) Ensure victims and survivors of all backgrounds and language abilities
21 receive full supportive services so they can recover and heal,

22 2) Expand intervention- and prevention-based programs and invest in basic
23 needs and community-based infrastructure that we know will end the cycle of violence
24 and keep all of us safer, and

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1 3) Resource cross-community education and healing in Asian American and
2 Black communities that humanizes all of us rather than demonizes or scapegoats any
3 community of color”; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of
5 Supervisors to follow the Youth Commission’s recommendations, as set forth in YC File
6 No.1920-AL-13, to cut SFPD’s budget by 50% and invest part of the 25% “Community and
7 People Budget” towards community intervention- and prevention-based services in response
8 to violence; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor’s Office of
10 Violence Prevention to use its Street Violence Intervention Program (“SVIP”) as one way to
11 provide community intervention and prevention-based responses to de-escalating violent
12 encounters without increased reliance on law enforcement, to provide escorts for elderly
13 Asians to help them feel safer, and to organize workshops that bring community members
14 together to plan solutions and promote cross-racial education, dialogue, and solidarity; and,
15 be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor’s Office to
17 deliver on their discussion to create an Asian Hate Crime Task Force not under SFPD, but
18 working alongside the SVIP, including community members who speak Asian languages to
19 build trust and support when engaging with crime victims; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges District Attorney Chesa
21 Boudin’s office to favor restorative justice over criminal charges when dealing with
22 perpetrators; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Department of
24 Children, Youth and their Families and the Department of Public Health to fund community-
25 based organizations, such as Chinese for Affirmative Action, Asian Pacific American

1 Community Center, and Community Youth Center of San Francisco, which provide mental
2 health resources, social services, and legal assistance to the Asian community, especially
3 those who do not speak English as their first language; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges SFPD to only get involved
5 if necessary to properly and legally assist survivors of anti-Asian hate crimes in filing a police
6 report, get mental health and medical care especially for elderly and disabled survivors, and
7 connect them with culturally-competent and language-accessible resources to minimize
8 miscommunication and trauma; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the San Francisco
10 Department of Police Accountability to ensure SFPD supports all survivors of Asian hate
11 crimes according to laws and regulations; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of
13 Supervisors to take action following the hearing contained in BOS File No. 210156, on Crime
14 and Violence Targeting Asian-American Seniors, by meeting the demands of the Bay Area
15 Asian organizations and passing a resolution condemning anti-Asian hate crimes and
16 supporting victims' families, ensuring culturally-competent and language-accessible resources
17 for all communities, and expanding community intervention- and prevention-based programs
18 over law enforcement.

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Nora Hylton, Chair
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2020-2021 San Francisco Youth Commission

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