

RESOLUTION TO CONDEMNATE, REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT AS A WELLCOMING COMMUNITY, AND TO SUPPORT OF OUR ASIAN AND ASIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 30th day of March 2021, at 6:00 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: Supervisor Ron Styka, Clerk Deborah Guthrie, Treasurer Phil Deschaine, Trustees Patricia Jackson, Daniel Opsommer

ABSENT: Trustees Kathy Sundland, Courtney Wisinski

The following resolution was offered by Trustee Jackson and supported by Trustee Opsommer.

WHEREAS, The recent attacks on our Asian and Asian-American communities, including the shootings in the metro Atlanta area which took the lives of eight people and wounded another, have no place in our society; and

WHEREAS, Racism and prejudice toward Asian Americans have always existed. Prominent examples include the "Yellow Peril," the Chinese Exclusion Act, and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Culturally insensitive rhetoric regarding COVID-19 has contributed to an alarming increase in discrimination and hate crimes toward Asian Americans; and

WHEREAS, More than 30 percent of Asian Americans have reported being subjected to discrimination since the beginning of the Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, According to Stop AAPI Hate, 3,795 incidents have been reported between March 19, 2020 and February 28, 2021 from all 50 states, including 16 in Michigan. Incidents have included physical assault, verbal harassment, shunning, workplace discrimination, refusal of service, and online harassment; and

WHEREAS, Acts of hate and discrimination are antithetical to our values as a community. As civic leaders, it is our duty to promote respect, inclusion, and a welcoming community for people of all races, national origins, and ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, All Michiganders can play a role in establishing a safe and welcoming community by intervening and reporting instances of hate and discrimination. Reporting these incidents is critical to holding perpetrators accountable and fully addressing the issue; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans are one of the fastest-growing ethnic groups in the United States and in addition to the well-known contributions of modern architecture, advancements in cancer detection and many other, the Asian culture has also contributed other valuable products such as barbeque, ketchup, fireworks, gunpowder and vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Asian descent living within our community comprising 6.51% of our total 43,000 residents in comparison to 4.2% of the total United States population; and

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Page 2

WHEREAS, The Okemos Public School district supports our Asian and Asian American community through education and resources to assist in the understanding, knowledge, and responsiveness to potential biases and racial inequities; and

WHEREAS, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, it is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions that Asian Pacific American have made and continue to give to our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, That the members of the Meridian Township Board condemn hate, reaffirm our commitment as a welcoming community, and to support our Asian and Asian-American communities.

RESOLVED, That we encourage Asian Americans and all Michiganders who experience hate crimes to report such incidents to local law enforcement or the Michigan Attorney General's Hate Crimes Unit; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage Asian Americans and all Michiganders who experience discrimination to report such experiences to the Michigan Department of Civil Rights; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Michigan Attorney General, and the Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

ADOPTED:

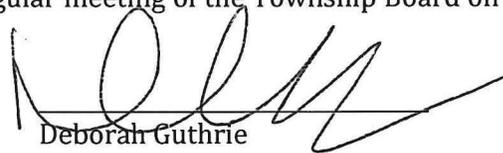
YEAS: Trustee Jackson, Treasurer Deschaine, Clerk Guthrie, Trustee Opsommer, Supervisor Styka

NAYS: None

Resolution declared adopted 5-0

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss:
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 30th day of March 2021.


Deborah Guthrie
Meridian Township Clerk