

Hudson County, New Jersey
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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Immediate Release

**Hudson County Board of Commissioners passed a Resolution
Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance against
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**

Jersey City-The Hudson County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution condemning and combating racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Hudson County is committed to inclusion and advancing equity and justice for people of all races, national origins and ethnicities.

Asian American and Pacific Islander communities are immensely diverse, consisting of multiple ethnicities, hundreds of languages and dialects, wide-ranging socioeconomic characteristics, and distinct immigration patterns

The belief that AAPI are a monolithic group and achieve universal success, also known as the “model minority myth,” perpetuates stereotypes, and masks the disparities within these communities, particularly among Southeast Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Racism and scapegoating toward AAPIs have persisted since the 19th century and contributed toward policies like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prohibited immigration of Chinese laborers, and introduction of the term “yellow peril,” which represented East Asians as dangerous and threatening to the United States.

Racist policies continued into the 20th century with the Immigration Act of 1924 effectively banning all immigration from Asia, Executive Order 9066 in 1942 authorizing

the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II; and others that have impacted Southeast Asian Americans, South Asians, Muslims, and Sikhs, among others.

In 1982, the Asian American community mobilized for justice after Vincent Chin was murdered in Detroit, Michigan by two individuals who perceived him as Japanese and reportedly blamed him for the declining auto industry, making this one of the first widely known cases of a crime targeting an Asian American based on race.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in New Jersey in March 2020, harmful and xenophobic rhetoric related to the geographic origins of this disease resulted in a rise in reported hate incidents and crimes against AAPI individuals, communities, and business throughout the nation.

Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition aimed at addressing anti-Asian discrimination and the pandemic and founded by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, Chinese for Affirmative Action, and San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department, documented over 6,603 hate incidents targeting AAPIs in the United States since March 2020, **125** of which were in the State of New Jersey, making it the State with the 8th highest number of AAPI incidents.

AAPIs in Hudson County are increasingly concerned about their safety and well-being, given the rise of racially motivated attacks and hate crimes in the region

Despite these increasing acts of hate and bigotry, AAPIs have made Hudson County and our nation surer throughout its history and during the COVID-19 pandemic, with an estimated 2 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders serving on the front lines of this crisis as healthcare providers, as first responders, and in other essential roles.

Hudson County will work to ensure that all members of AAPI communities – no matter their background, the language they speak, or their religious beliefs – are treated with dignity and equality.

Board Chairman Anthony Vainieri and the Board of Commissioners wholeheartedly condemn racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The Board will work with AAPI community in support of victims reporting hate crimes. They will also support members of the AAPI community in efforts to develop tangible, community-led solutions that acknowledge the experiences of AAPI residents, root out systemic racism, and uplift racial solidarity.

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