## CITY OF WEST ALLIS RESOLUTION R-2021-0186

## RESOLUTION CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AGAINST MINORITIES OF ALL FACTIONS OF SOCIETY AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE

WHEREAS, 23 million Asian American citizens and Pacific Islanders account for 7% of the population in the United States, 37 million African American citizens account for 13%, of the 60 million Hispanic American citizens that account for 18% of the population; <sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, racism and hate are not new and have a long history in the United States;<sup>2</sup> and

- WHEREAS, for far too long, minority Americans have been the target of xenophobic, anti-Semitic and disenfranchising policies, labor exploitation, hate crimes, and systemic racism in the United States:<sup>3</sup> and
- WHEREAS, the use of racist rhetoric, especially as it intensified these past two years, has resulted in unprecedented destruction by domestic terrorist groups. The violence against minority and minority business owners is at a record high, at times with complete unrecoverable loss;<sup>4</sup> and
- **WHEREAS**, violent crimes, according to the FBI, have risen 40% in the past year against minorities and minority groups. Violent crimes committed against citizens of the same race has risen more than 20% in 20204; with the largest increase in domestic terrorist crimes being committed against Asian Americans; 5 and
- **WHEREAS,** in the last year, Asian American and Pacific Islander women made up 68% of the 3,800 hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.<sup>6</sup> Nationally, 1 in 3 women is sexually or physically assaulted by a domestic partner;<sup>7</sup> and
- WHEREAS, since the start of 2021, there has been a surge in attacks targeting elderly. With nursing homes being forced to under report COVID-19 deaths, a grave injustice and the respect of the elderly have not been condemned formally; and
- **WHEREAS,** the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognize that naming COVID–19 by its geographic location or linking it to a specific ethnicity perpetuates stigma; <sup>9</sup> and
- **WHEREAS,** , in 2015, the WHO issued guidance calling on media outlets, scientists, and national authorities to avoid naming infectious diseases for locations to avoid stigmatizing groups of people; $^{10}$  and
- **WHEREAS,** on February 27, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services stated, "ethnicity is not what causes the novel coronavirus" and that it is inappropriate and inaccurate to call COVID-19 the "Chinese virus";<sup>11</sup> and
- **WHEREAS,** on February 28, 2020, Dr. Mitch Wolfe, the Chief Medical Officer of the CDC, said, "stigma is the enemy of public health"; <sup>12</sup> and

**WHEREAS,** on March 10, 2020, Dr. Robert Redfield, the Director of the CDC, testified that use of the term "Chinese coronavirus" is wrong and inappropriate; <sup>13</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary-General of the United Nations called for international solidarity and an end to any ill-founded discrimination against the outbreak's victims; <sup>14</sup> and

**WHEREAS,** violence against any minority group based upon the actions of the ethnic group country of origin is un-American as a whole. Anti-Muslim actions against Muslims for terrorist attacks, racial violence against our African American community based on riots or protests, infringe on all American's rights; <sup>15</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, no one should live in fear in our communities across Wisconsin<sup>16</sup> and the United States, specifically for this resolution, the community of West Allis;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City of West Allis Common Council that the City of West Allis condemns violence of all forms against all minority and religious communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of West Allis Common Council condemns all acts of racism, xenophobia, sexism, gender-based violence, discrimination, anti-Asian bias, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious intolerance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of West Allis Common Council encourages leaders at all levels to recommit the United States to serve as a world leader in building more inclusive, diverse, and tolerant communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of West Allis Common Council encourages the Attorney General to work with State and local agencies and minority community-based organizations to prevent discrimination and expand culturally competent and linguistically appropriate education campaigns on public reporting of hate crimes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of West Allis Common Council encourages everyone to condemn violence at all levels no matter the race, sex or religious background of a citizen, that they read, learn, and seek opportunities to experience cultures other than their own, review their practices that may create barriers or contribute to systemic racism, and in these ways and others seek to become a more welcoming, inclusive, anti-racist community

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of West Allis recommends individuals seek advice from faith-based and/or Local and/or State organizations that provide anti-racism training. The City of West Allis encourages public engagement in these trainings and/or education events as they are available to them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of West Allis is a diverse community, this common council, Mayor and city leaders be more inclusive of all members of the community.<sup>17</sup> By being inclusive it is resolved that no one race is superior to the other in the message against racial, sexual and religious violence. That all violence in our Country, State and City should be condemned by

**SECTION 1:** <u>ADOPTION</u> "R-2021-0186" of the City Of West Allis Municipal Resolutions is hereby *added* as follows:

## ADOPTION

R-2021-0186(Added)

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF WEST ALLIS COUNCIL APRIL 07, 2021.

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Ald. Angelito Tenorio	X			
Ald. Vince Vitale	X			
Ald. Tracy Stefanski	X			
Ald. Marty Weigel			X	
Ald. Suzzette Grisham	X			
Ald. Danna Kuehn	X		<u></u>	
Ald. Thomas Lajsic	X		<u></u>	
Ald. Dan Roadt	X			
Ald. Rosalie Reinke	X		<u></u>	
Ald. Kevin Haass	X			

Attest Presiding Officer

Rebecca Grill, City Clerk, City Of West Allis

Dan Devine, Mayor City Of West Allis

